第二巻
まおゆう
Archenemy and Hero 魔王勇者
「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」 「断る！」
漫画・原作
石田あきら 橙乃ままれ
キャラクター原案 水玉模様之弟・toi8
Kadokawa Comics A
まおゆう 魔王勇者

まおゆう
魔王勇者

第三巻

漫画 石田あきら　原作 橙乃ままれ
キャラクター原案 水玉螢之丞・toi8

第九話 Archenemy and Hero 9th chapter 001
それは私の役目だ

第十話 Archenemy and Hero 10th chapter 049
お帰りなさい、勇者！

第十一話 Archenemy and Hero 11th chapter 091
いかがでしょう、我が君

第十二話 Archenemy and Hero 12th chapter 139
損得では割り切れないもの

EVEN WITH OUR PROUD IRON TURTLE TROOPS' WALL...

CAN'T... SHE WON'T STOP...

STOP HER!

FEMALE KNIGHT ...!

SO SHE IS HERO'S LEGENDARY WING...

まおゆう魔王勇者

コミックス1・2巻
大好評発売中！

まおゆう

Archenemy and Hero 魔王勇者

——「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」「断る！」——

原作：橙乃ままれ　漫画：石田あきら

キャラクター原案：水玉螢之丞・toi8

CHAPTER 9: THAT'S MY JOB!

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ついに開かれた戦の火蓋
氷の戦場を
女騎士
駆ける！

魔王様駄肉マウスパッドなどが抽選であたる
第二次丘の向こうフェア開催中！
詳しくは次ページへ！

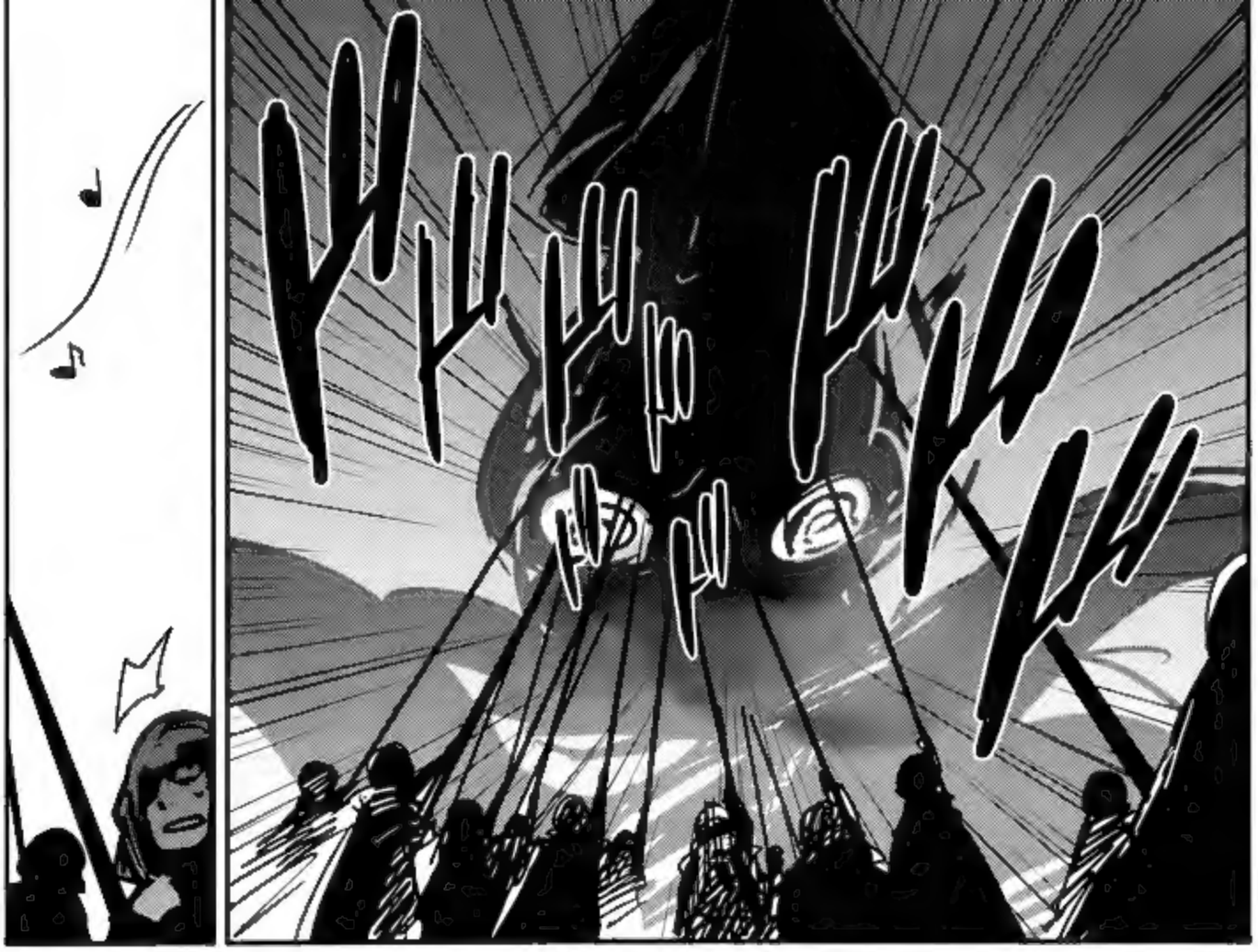
漫画原作
石田あきら 橙乃ままれ
キャラクター原案 水玉御之巫・toi8
まおゆう
Archenemy and Hero 魔王勇者
――「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」「断る！」――
第九話 Archenemy and Hero 9th chapter
それは私の役目だ

HAA...
HAA...
HAA...
WHAT IS IT?
I...
I...!
YEAH, SHE'S WAY BEYOND THE RUMORS.
AMAZING... OUR PRINCESS KNIGHT COMMANDER ALREADY CUT THROUGH THAT FAR.
VOLUNTEER ARMY FORTH COMPANY, ADVANCE!
.....
IT'S OUR TURN SOON.
LOOK.
I WAS SCARED OF FIGHTING,
BUT SOMEHOW, WHEN I WATCH THE PRINCESS COMMANDER...
YEAH.
I CAN FEEL MY COURAGE POURING OUT...!

YEAH!

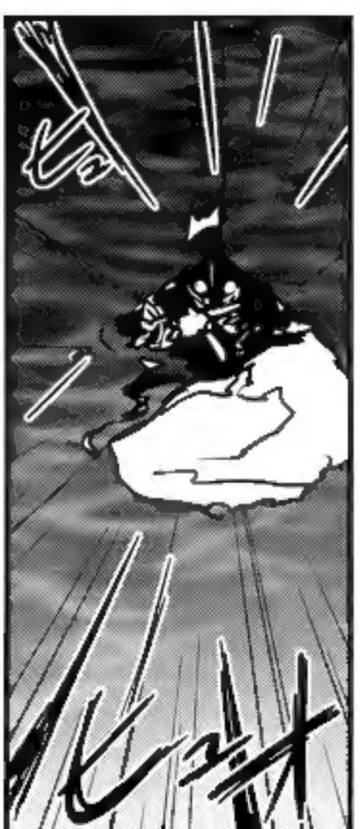
MOVE!!
MOVE!

HEL
...
P...
AHH
GAH
ALL RIGHT!
BOW TROOPS, TAKE ONE MORE SHOT!
VOLUNTEER ARMY, LANCE TROOPS, SECOND COMPANY,
ADVANCE !!



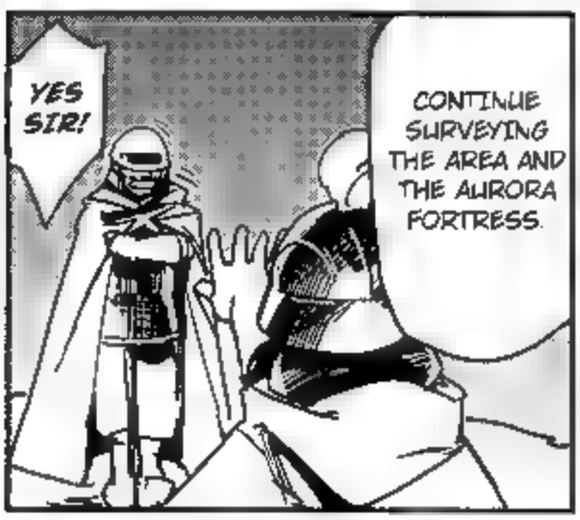
BOW TROOPS!
THAT'S WHERE THE DEMON MASTER WHO'S CONTROLLING THE GIANT DEMON IS!
IT'S THE SOUND COMING OF A FROM FLUTE, THE SOUTHWEST!

DO IT NOW!
TAKE HIM DOWN!!
IT'S WEAKENED 'CAUSE THE SOUND STOPPED!



YEAAA!!
HEAVY ARMOR TROOPS, FORTH COMPANY,
PUSH FORWARD!
LEFT WING, RETREAT!
FOR THE KING-DOM!!
DON'T YIELD!
OTHERS WILL FOLLOW IF WE SECURE THIS AREA!!
VICTORY TO OUR PRINCESS KNIGHT COM-MANDER!!
FOR LONE WINTER KING!!

ATTACK!


YES SIR!
CONTINUE SURVEYING THE AREA AND THE AURORA FORTRESS.

HMPH..
MOST OF OUR SURROUND-INGS ARE SECURED.
TAKING APART THE SLED AND CONSTRUCTING THE TEMPORARY FORTRESS IS PROGRESSING WITHOUT ISSUES!

NO WORRIES.
BELIEVE IN OUR ALLY.
BELIEVE IN OUR PRINCESS COM-MANDER.

WOULDN'T OUR TROOPS BE ISOLATED
IF THE ENEMY'S MAIN FORCE COMES OUT OF THE FOR-TRESS...?

UMM. LIEU-TENANT,

SECOND AURORA ISLAND
RECOVERY CAMPAIGN
WATER DEMONS

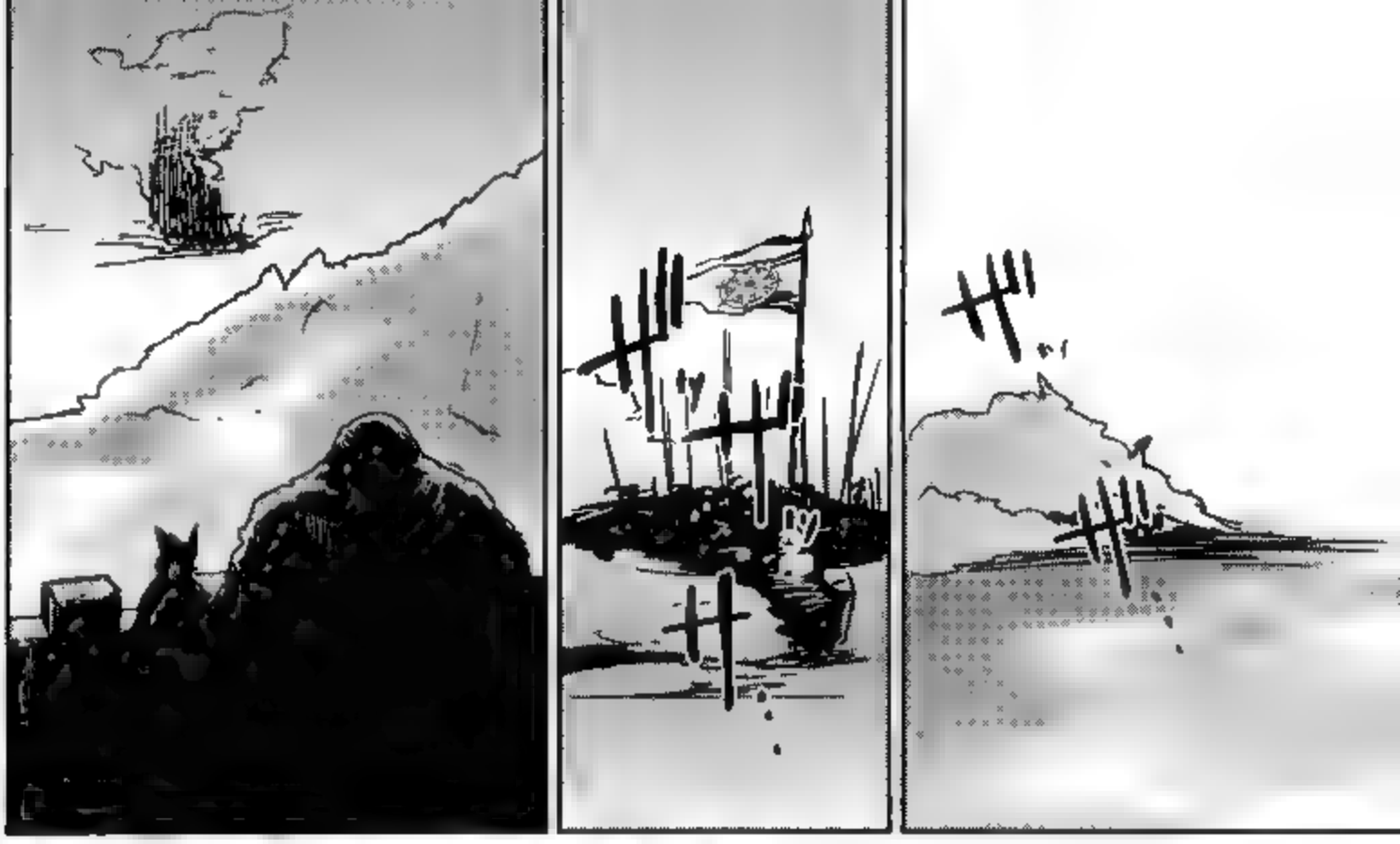
WE SUCCEEDED IN TAKING THE LANDING ZONE,
SO OUR BRIDGEHEAD IS SECURED.
AS FOR THE STONE HILL, MOST OF THE ENEMY FORCES ARE DOWN, SO WE PROCEEDED TO FORTIFY THE AREA.
...ALSO, PLEASE GET ME THE SPARE HORSE
AND WIPE HIS SWEAT FOR HIM.
HE HELPED ME OUT NUMEROUS TIMES.
WE'LL HAVE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNI-CATION ROUTES!
SPREAD THE ORDER.
YES SIR!
SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING'S GOING WELL...
Here's a towel.
SEEMS LIKE IT.
OUR CASUALTIES ARE AT LESS THAN 500.
500 ...?!
THAT'S AN INCRED-IBLE SUCCESS!
TO BRING SUCH RE-MARKABLE RESULTS...
YES, AS EXPECTED...

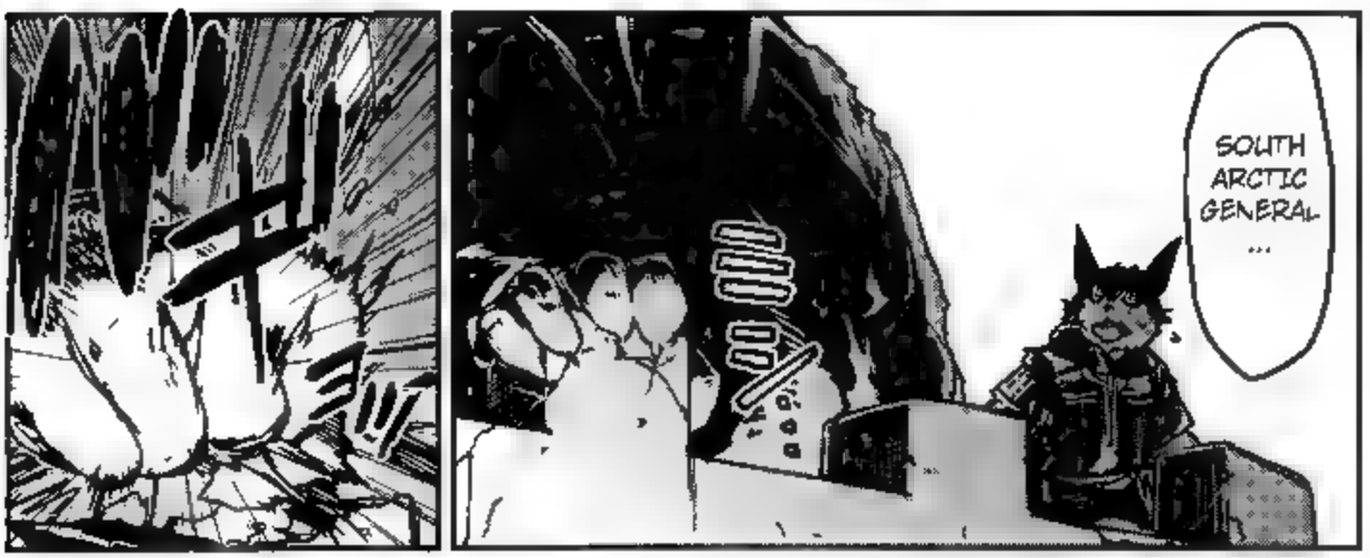
SCHOLAR
!!
THAT WAS SOME OUT-STANDING LEADERSHIP,
ESPECIALLY WHEN WE GAINED THIS MUCH OF AN ADVANTAGE EVEN AFTER ABANDONING A SURPRISE ATTACK.
. BUT THIS IS IT.
WELL....
THERE ARE MANY NATURAL CAVES IN AURORA ISLAND, AND THE MOUNTAIN CASTLE IS A FIRM STRONGHOLD.
IF THE ONE COMMANDING IT IS THE NOBLE AMONG DEMONS, SOUTH ARCTIC GENERAL, THEN IT PROBABLY HAS FULL PREPARATIONS FOR DEFENDING THE CASTLE.

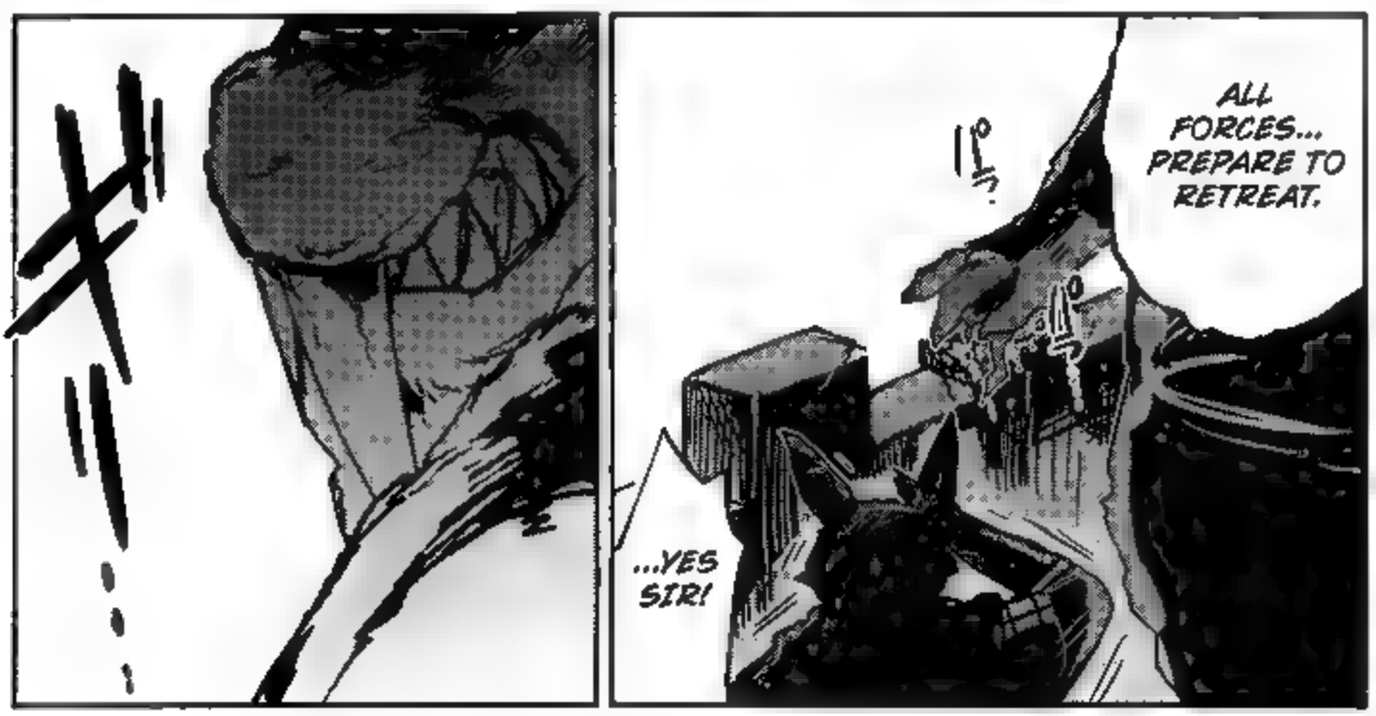
THERE ARE TWO STRATEGIES WE CAN TAKE.
ONE IS TO USE BRUTE FORCE...
BUT THIS WILL RESULT IN A DEVASTATING WAR OF ATTRITION.
ALTHOUGH THEY UNDERWENT TRAINING, OUR SOLDIERS HAVE AN UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF DISCIPLINE, SO THEY'RE QUESTIONABLE FOR PROLONGED BATTLES.
ANOTHER IS SIEGING.
HOWEVER, NOT ONLY IS IT DIFFICULT TO LAY A BLOCKADE UNDER THIS INTENSE COLD,
BUT GUERILLA TACTICS FROM THE DEMONS THAT CAN MOVE UNDERWATER AND DISSOLVE IN DARKNESS
WILL BE EXTREMELY LETHAL TO OUR SOLDIERS' MIND AND BODY.
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT AN EASY SITUATION
SINCE THIS IS USUALLY WHERE THE REAL BATTLE BEGINS.
EITHER WAY, IT'LL RESULT IN A PAINFUL PSYCHOLOGICAL BATTLE.

SOUTH ARCTIC GENERAL PROBABLY KNOWS THIS TOO.
HE HAPPILY ACCEPTED THIS SITUATION, THINKING HE'LL BE ABLE TO TURN THE TIDES.
SO YOU ARE SAYING YOU HAVE A PLAN TO COUNTER THIS SITUATION...
YES.
IT'S NOT SOME GRAND STRATEGY.
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.
THEN IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TELL US
THE REASON YOU HAD US ABANDON THE OPTION OF TAKING DOWN THE FORTRESS IN A QUICK SURPRISE ATTACK.
...THE MEANING OF THAT "TIME".

REPORT!
REPORT!!
A LARGE ARMY HAS BEEN SIGHTED AT THE FAR SOUTH SIDE OF AURORA ISLAND COMING FROM THE DEMON CONTINENT!
IT'S OVER 10000 IN NUMBERS!
IT'S-
IT'S-
IT'S OUR ALLIES!!
DUE TO THIS PRESSURE IN NUMBERS, SOUTH ARCTIC GENERAL WILL...
WELL, HE PROBABLY WON'T SURRENDER, BUT HE'LL AT LEAST FLEE.
IT'S NOTHING FLASHY.
A SIMPLE REINFORCEMENT.




SOUTH ARCTIC GENERAL ...


ALL FORCES... PREPARE TO RETREAT.
...YES SIR!

SECOND AURORA ISLAND RECOVERY CAMPAIGN
BRIDGEHEAD CAMP
THEY'RE ADVANCING QUICKLY THROUGH THE SOUTHERN FROST LANDS TOWARDS OUR UNKNOWN REINFORCE-MENT!
THEY'RE APPROXI-MATELY 7500 IN NUMBER!
DEMON FORCES HAVE COME OUT OF THE AURORA ISLAND FORTRESS!
BEYOND
WINTER NATION
ICE BRIDGE
AURORA ISLAND
KINGDOM FORCE 12000
FROZEN SEA
DEMON FORCES 7500
REINFORCE-MENTS? 10000
CONTINENT EDGE
BEYOND
GATE
7500... THAT'S THE ENTIRE FORCE. A FASTER REACTION THAN EXPECTED.
THEY PROBABLY DON'T WANT US TO UNITE WITH THE REINFORCEMENTS AND PROCEED WITH A COMBINED ASSAULT.
IT'S THE HOLY CRUSADERS WHO WERE OCCUPYING "GATEWAY CITY".
THERE'S ONLY ONE GROUP OF HUMAN FORCES THAT WOULD COME FROM THE DEMON WORLD.
FROM BEYOND THE "GATE"...
BUT WHO ARE THOSE REINFORCE-MENTS...?

IF IT'S THE HOLY CRUSADERS, THEN THEIR SKILLS AND EQUIPMENTS SHOULD BE THE BEST OF THE HUMAN WORLD.
THEY ALSO HAVE THE NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE, SO I CAN'T THINK OF A REASON FOR THEM TO LOSE...
7500 DEMONS AGAINST THE REINFORCEMENT OF 10000...
WHAT IS THE PREDICTED OUTCOME?
I WONDER ABOUT THAT...
I MADE THEM RUN IN CIRCLES AND STALLED THEIR MOVEMENTS AND STUFF IN ORDER TO MATCH THE TIMING.
SO THEY'RE PRETTY WORN OUT.
HERO?!
YOU'RE ALIVE?!

AND THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE EXPEDITION FORCES. HOW SHAMEFUL...
SEE?
OUR REINFORCEMENTS ARE IN STAGGERED COLUMNS FORMATION, AND THE FRONTLINE IS SMALL IN NUMBER!
THEY'RE GETTING KNOCKED DOWN!
THE UNKNOWN REINFORCEMENT'S AND THE DEMON FORCE'S FRONTLINES HAVE CLASHED!
IT'S THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND. ALTHOUGH IT'LL TAKE TIME, WE HAVE TO GO HELP THEM.
HMPH... LIKE I'D LET THEM.
THEY'RE MOST LIKELY PLANNING ON ASSAULTING OUR RETREATING FORCES FROM BEHIND.
...AS EXPECTED, THEY MOVED.

THANK YOU SIR
...DO AS YOU LIKE
I ALSO FEEL LIKE GIVING THOSE HUMANS A PIECE OF MY MIND.
BY THE WAY, I'M QUITE SURE I ORDERED EVERYONE TO RETREAT.
ISN'T OUR CHIEF TOO INTO IT?
QUICK!
OUR TROOPS WILL TAKE THE FIRST BLOOD!

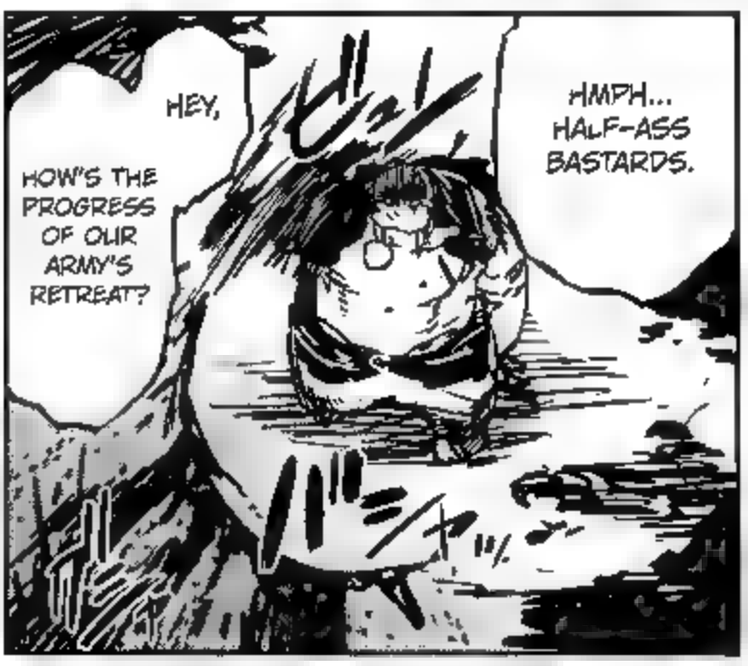
I AM SOUTH ARCTIC GENERAL!!
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE EVEN A STEP FORWARD HERE!

YES MA'AM!
TELL THEM TO PULL BACK!
REPORT!
A SQUAD OF LIGHT ARMOR TROOPS HAS BEEN TAKEN DOWN!
A DEMON WHO CLAIMS TO BE SOUTH ARCTIC GENERAL HAS APPEARED!

STALLING FOR TIME WITH FULL RESOLUTION TO DIE...
I'D LIKE TO SAY IT'S ADMIRABLE DESPITE BEING AN ENEMY, BUT...
...IT MEANS THAT HE IS ALSO ANOTHER MERE WARRIOR.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. I'LL GO SLAM HIM DOWN A BIT.
HERO,
THAT'S MY JOB.
IT'S A WARRIOR'S LAST WISH.
AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THIS WAR, I SHOULD BE THE ONE CONFRONTING HIM.

ドA
ドA

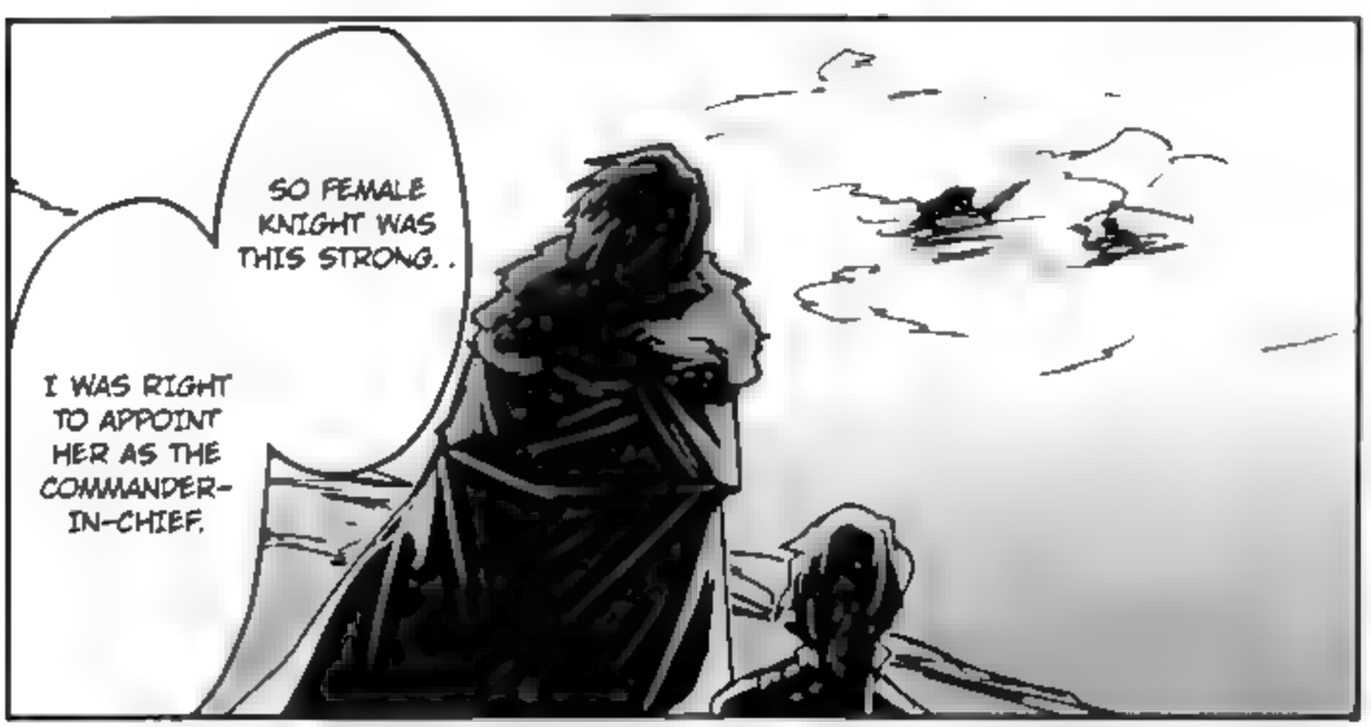
……?


HEY,
HOW'S THE PROGRESS OF OUR ARMY'S RETREAT?
HMPH... HALF-ASS BASTARDS.

ゴゴゴ
THERE'S NO REASON TO DODGE A VICTORY.
HA HA HA
I'M GLAD THAT YOU ACCEPTED THIS FIGHT!

!!
HA
I'M UNRIVALED UNDER THIS HEAVEN!
THAT SORT OF ATTACK WON'T WORK AGAINST ME!
UNRIVALED? YOU'RE SO FULL OF YOURSELF.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING PEOPLE WHO ARE FAR, FAR STRONGER!

YOU CAN WITNESS THIS SORT OF A BATTLE ONLY ONCE IN A LIFETIME.
AMAZING ...


SO FEMALE KNIGHT WAS THIS STRONG..
I WAS RIGHT TO APPOINT HER AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

BUT SOUTH ARCTIC GENERAL IS STRONG TOO...!
GEEZER.
CAN SHE WIN...?
SHE WILL.
I KNOW HER STRENGTH VERY WELL.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
JUST LIKE SCHOLAR SAID...
THINGS THAT CAN'T BE "SATISFIED WITH JUST WINNING..."

MOREOVER, YOUR HIGHNESS,
THIS BATTLE HAS ALREADY BEEN WON.

...TO TAKE BACK AURORA ISLAND THROUGH NEITHER BRUTE FORCE NOR BESIEGING, BUT IN A WAY THAT COMPLETELY MINIMIZES OUR CASUALTIES...

HERO'S TECHNIQUE: BEDROCK BREAKER!!
FREEZING BLIZZARD!!

BRING IT ON.
I'LL PUT YOU TO SLEEP.
チャキ

HA HA HA HA HA
SPLENDID! HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE!

HERE I COME...!
IF YOU STAY CLOSE TO AN ABNORMALITY FOR TOO LONG, YOU'D LEARN TO DO AT LEAST THIS MUCH...
MATCHING ME IN RAW STRENGTH ...?!
IMPOSSIBLE

SHE'S FAST!
NO

ARGH ...!
WHAT A SPLENDID... DISPLAY OF... SKILLS...

IT'S OUR...
VICTORY !!!

VICTORY GAINED WITH THE HELP OF FRIENDS - WHAT'S ITS VALUE?

TO BE CONTINUED

AURORA ISLAND HAS BEEN RECLAIMED!

PEOPLE!

FROM NOW ON, AURORA ISLAND WILL BE THE FRONTLINE OF THE WAR AGAINST THE DEMON ARMY.

BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN OUR BATTLE AGAINST THE DEMONS HAS ENDED!

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE STILL DIFFICULT CHALLENGES WE HAVE TO OVERCOME IN ORDER TO RECOVER OUR LOSSES.

I, LONE WINTER KING, WILL ALSO ANSWER YOUR LOYALTIES WITH HEFTY REWARDS.

HOWEVER, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF IF WE HAVE THE POWER OF EVERYONE WHO BROUGHT US THIS US VICTORY.

CHEERS!

I'VE PREPARED A SMALL FEAST FOR TONIGHT,

SO ENJOY YOUR-SELVES!

CHEERS!!

まおゆう魔王勇者

Archenemy and Hero

—「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」「断る！」—

CHAPTER 11

WELCOME HOME, HERO!

WRITER: TOUNO MAMARE
ARTIST: ISHIDA AKIRA

DUE TO AN ISSUE WITH OUR DOMAIN, WE'VE MOVED TO EXTRASCANS.NET. UPDATE YOUR BOOKMARKS!

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IT'S A POOR COUNTRY ON ITS WAY TO GETTING BETTER.

IF YOU'RE STINGY ON REWARDS JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE POOR, PEOPLE WON'T SETTLE DOWN.

POST-WAR RECOVERY, RECONSTRUC-TION, AND REWARDS...

THOSE ARE SOME COSTLY STUFF FOR A POOR COUNTRY.

...SOME-THING LIKE THAT

I SEE...

"Since I can't reveal myself just yet,

I'll just go grab some food in secret"

I could end up bumping into someone who recognizes me You never know

HE'S SOME-WHERE AROUND, BUT AS TO WHERE...

...BY THE WAY, WHERE'S HERO?

SHE TRAVELED AROUND THE DEMON WORLD ALONGSIDE HERO

AND DAZZLED US WITH REMARKABLE DISPLAY OF SKILLS AS THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THIS BATTLE...

PLEASE HOLD ONTO YOUR GLASSES AND LISTEN.

TONIGHT, WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT GUEST.

FEMALE KNIGHT

FEMALE KNIGHT!

わあっ

I'M FEMALE KNIGHT, AS INTRODUCED.

THAT VICTORY WAS DUE TO THE POWER OF WINTER NATION'S PEOPLE...

NOT JUST ITS SOLDIERS, BUT ALSO THE STRENGTH OF EVERY CITIZEN IN THIS COUNTRY.

WITH SUCH A SPIRIT, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE.

...

FEMALE KNIGHT HAS HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN INSTRUCTOR OF THE LAKE SHORE ORDER,

SO WE CAN'T ASK HER TO STAY IN OUR COUNTRY.

HOWEVER, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'S OUR NATION'S... NO, HUMANITY'S SAVIOR.

THEREFORE, I WILL PRESENT HER WITH OUR NATION'S MEDAL OF HONOR!

GIVE HER OUR CHEERS!

おお——

ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ ｲﾋｬ

AND THIS HERE IS CRIMSON SCHOLAR.

YOU'VE ALL HEARD OF HER, RIGHT?

SHE'S A GREAT BENEFACTOR OF OUR COUNTRY WHO BLESSED THE LANDS WITH THAT MIRACULOUS CROP, "POTATO".

おお…

ざわ…

ざわ…

SHE'S THE RUMORED …

THEY SAY THE WINDMILL IS ALSO HER CREATION.

I HEARD SHE PROVIDED THE NAVY WITH THE COMPASS.

ざわ…

A GENIUS …

I HEARD SHE LOOKS THROUGH EVERYTHING.

I'M CRIMSON SCHOLAR.

SINCE I'M AN UNTALENTED FOOL BY BIRTH, I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR WORDS TO DELIVER ON THIS STAGE.

BUT I STAND HERE TO SHARE THE JOY OF THIS VICTORY WITH EVERYONE.

I WON'T FORGET THE GENTLE SMILES OF THESE PEOPLE.

I PRAY FOR GOOD FORTUNES TO SHOWER UPON THIS NATION AT ALL TIMES...

THIS COUNTRY... HAS TREATED A DRIFTER SUCH AS I VERY FAIRLY.

SUCH WARMTH MELTS AWAY ALL THE PAIN IN MY HEART.

あああ　あ　あ

パパ パパ　パパ パパ　パパ パパ　パパ パパ　パパ

YOUNG MASTER

YOUNG MASTER

AH...

YEAH ...

...

SCHOLAR, TOO, HAS HER PATH IN ACADEMICS, SO I COULDN'T INVITE HER INTO OUR PALACE,

BUT HER ACCOMPLISH-MENTS ARE MORE THAN WORTHY OF OUR MEDAL OF HONOR!

AS THE LEADER OF THIS NATION, I'M VERY HAPPY TO HEAR SUCH GRATEFUL WORDS FROM SCHOLAR.

I PRAY FOR HER TO CONTINUE LENDING US HER WISDOM FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THIS NATION.

IN ADDI-TION,

WE CAME TO A CONCLUSION THAT COOPERAT-ING WITH EACH OTHER IS CRUCIAL

NOT ONLY IN ANTI-DEMON STRATEGIC OPERATIONS, BUT ALSO IN FIELDS OF TRADE, ACADEMICS, AND TECHNOLOGY.

SOUTHERN REGION IS A HARSH AREA COVERED IN SNOW FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF SUCH LAND POSSESS STRENGTH TO OVERCOME SUCH DIFFICULTIES.

FURTHER-MORE, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCE-MENT TO MAKE.

THROUGH THIS WAR, WE SOUTHERN UNITED KING-DOMS FURTHER STRENGTHENED OUR BONDS.

WE, WINTER NATION, HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH THE IRON NATION AND THE ICE NATION.

THIS IS A PACT TO COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER ON TRADE, RESEARCH, AND OTHER FIELDS.

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THIS IS AN ALLIANCE THAT IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNITED NATION IN THE FUTURE.

AS FRIENDS WHO STOOD SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER ON THE FRONTLINE, WE BELIEVE WE'LL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A NEW TOMORROW!

わああああ

パパパパパパパパ

I'D LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

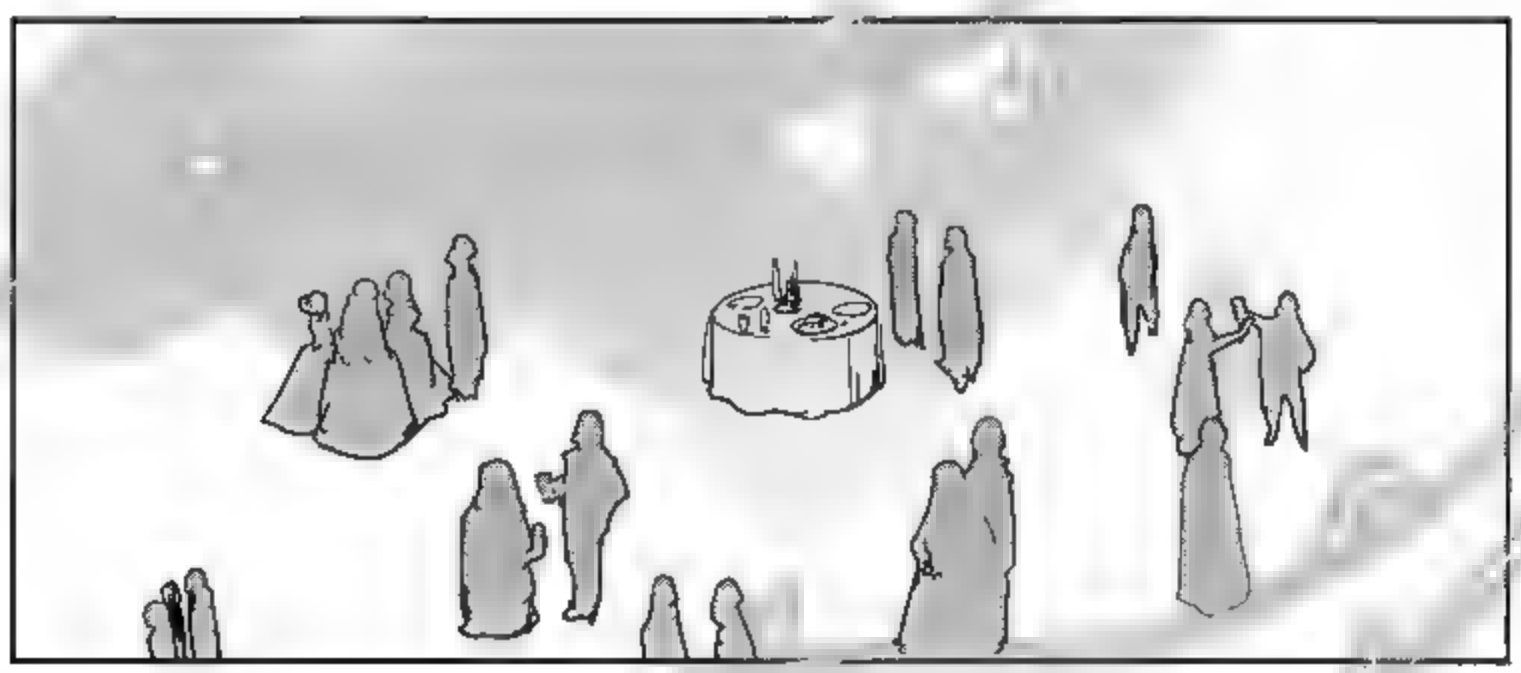
TO THE SOUTHERN COUNTRIES' FUTURE!

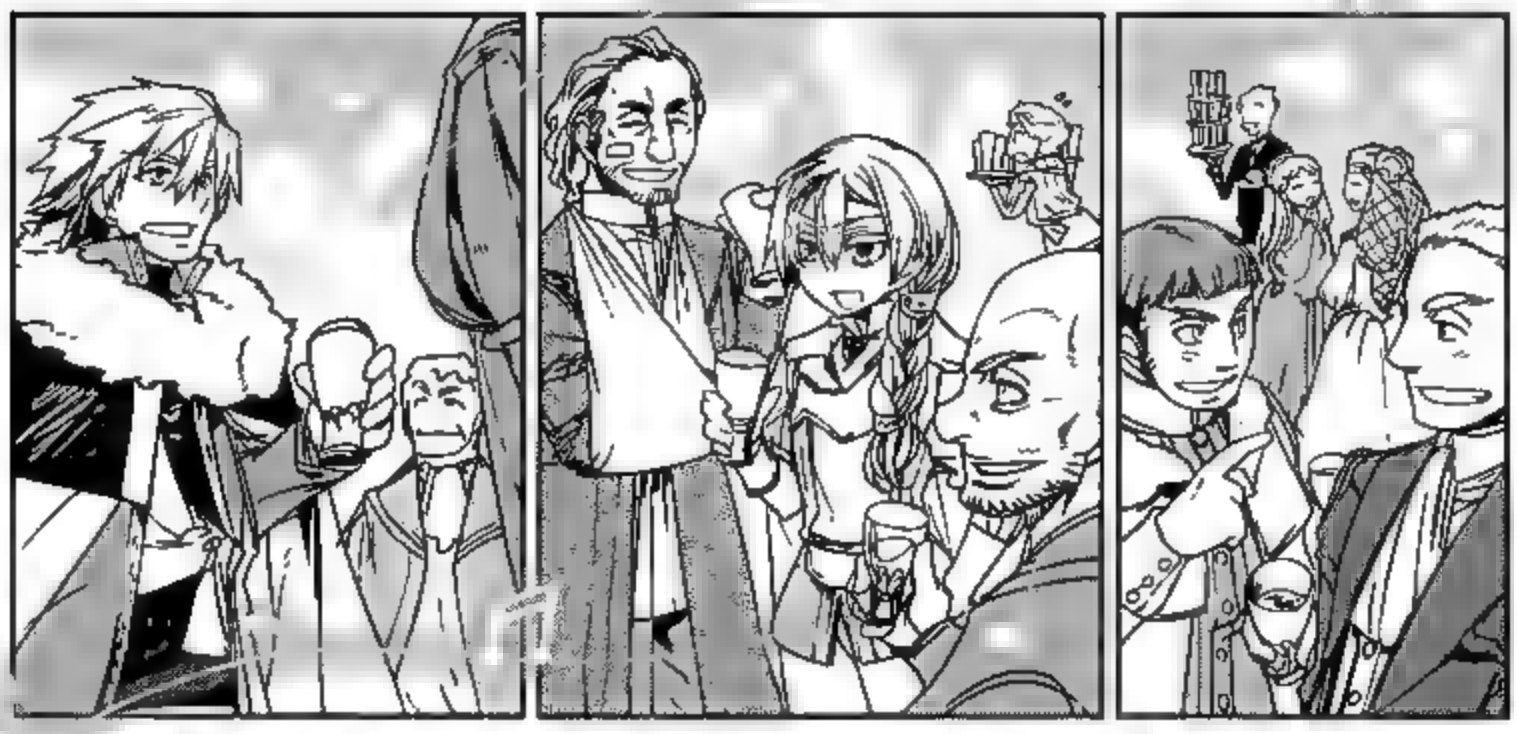
TO SCHOLAR'S WISDOM!

TO PRINCESS COMMANDER'S VALIANCE!

TO OUR KING'S VICTORY!

CHEERS!





THE CHURCH ORDER IN CHARGE OF THE SEEDS IS PROVIDING TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AS WE...

IT'S NOT TOO COMPLICATED, AND THE REVENUE OF PIONEER FARMERS HAVE BEEN INCREASING

IS IT DIFFICULT TO HARVEST?

THREE TIMES THE PRODUCTION OF WHEAT?

IT'S CALLED THE LAW OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE FOR SPECIALIZING IN CERTAIN AREAS.

THE INVESTIGATIONS ON MINERAL RESOURCES SHOULD BE REVIVED AS AN INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY

THE PRICE OF COPPER WILL RISE?

YOU REALLY CAN'T [illegible] HATE THIS WORLD

THAT GRACE AND WISDOM IT'S AS IF SHE'S OF ROYAL BLOOD.

[illegible] LIKE HERO?

!

SO YOU WERE HERE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT SO SNEAKILY, YOU KNOW?

WE~LL~ JUST IN CASE.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU DONE WITH THE PARTY ALREADY?

YEAH...

I'M FINE TALKING ABOUT THE WAR WITH THE KNIGHTS, BUT...

I GOT TIRED OF GETTING SURROUNDED BY LADIES GOING "KYA~ KYA~"...

THEN WHY DON'T YOU WEAR SOME GIRLY DRESSES DURING PARTIES?

I DON'T LIKE THOSE STUFF, AND...

THEY WON'T LOOK GOOD ON ME ANYWAY.

NAH~ I'M SURE YOU'LL LOOK GREAT.

I see.

JUST LIKE HOW "FINE FEATHERS MAKE FINE

SCHOLAR

SHE'S PROBABLY DOING HER BEST TRYING TO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE.

THANK GOOD-NESS?

IT SHOWS THAT YOU TWO GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHARE SUCH BIG SECRETS.

YOU TWO MUST BE BEST FRIENDS~!

Arghhh! Don't try to dig deeper!

What's wrong?

Come on~

EH?!

Why?

I won't back down!!

NO! SHE'S MY ARCHENEMY!

HERO, WERE YOU THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THEM OVER?

UMM...

WHERE SHOULD I START...

THAT ASIDE, THOSE REINFORCEMENTS THAT SUDDENLY APPEARED DURING THE BATTLE AT AURORA ISLAND...

THOSE HOLY CRU-SADERS...

REINFORCE-MENTS? 10000

A BUNCH OF STUFF HAPPENED AT THE DEMON WORLD... AND I ENDED UP HAVING TO MAKE THE HUMAN FORCES STATIONED AT GATEWAY CITY TO GO BACK.

BUT SINCE I CAN'T FORCE THEM OUT WITH BRUTE FORCE, I HAD TO DEVISE A PLAN.

TWO WEEKS AGO

DEMON WORLD GATEWAY CITY

H-

HEY...

WHAT?

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE PATROLLING AROUND THE TOWN, RIGHT?

THEN WHERE THE HECK ARE WE...?

NO WAY... IS THIS THE RUMORED CURSE?

!

THERE'S SOMEONE OVER THERE!

HA HA HA

HEY...

HA HA HA

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

HE'S NOT SANE...

HA HA HA

HE'S COM-ING!

NIGHT'S COMING! DARK-NESS IS COMING!

GHOST KNIGHT IS COM-ING!

THE DARK EVIL SPIRIT IS COMING!

HE'S COM-ING!

HA HA HA

カシャン

あああああ

YEAH

WAS THAT OKAY?

THIS THING'S PRETTY AMAZING

FAIRIES ARE SCARED OF SKELETONS!

ハハハ!

ALSO, NIGHT-MARE ROBIN, ARE YOU THERE?

OKAY~!

ALL RIGHT. SPLIT UP AND PLANT ILLUSIONS LIKE THESE AT DIFFERENT PLACES.

IT'S A FAMILIAR I JUST THOUGHT OF IT RE-CENTLY.

WHO?

IS AT YOUR SERVICE.

THIS ONE CREATED BY THY MASTER

AS YOU COM-MAND.

CONSTRUCT A CORRIDOR OF DREAMS THROUGH-OUT THE COMMAND CENTER.

SEND OUT NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT TO THOSE STUB-BORN NOBLES.

NIGHTMARE ROBIN

I CAN'T STAY IN THIS ACCURSED PLACE ANY-MORE!!

COMMANDER

THAT'S IT!

GATEWAY CITY STATIONED ARMY HQ

SOMEONE LIKE YOU FROM THE OUTSIDE FORTRESS WON'T UN-DERSTAND!

EVERY NIGHT, THE NIGHTMARE ...

THE CURSE OF THE DEAD IS ENGULFING THE CITY!

IT'S YOU IMPERIAL FORCES WHO DECIDED TO STAY IN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YOU GUYS WERE AFTER GETTING ALL LIKIE LIKE WITH DEMON GIRLS' BOING GOING BOI~NG! ☆

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

EAST FORTRESS GENERAL

RECENTLY, OUR FAITHFUL FRIEND, WHITE NIGHT KING, LAUNCHED THE AURORA ISLAND RECOVERY CAMPAIGN.

BUT DUE TO THE INCOMPETENT KINGS OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED KINGDOMS PULLING HIM DOWN, I HEARD THEY SUFFERED A HEAVY LOSS...

HUH?

ANYWAY, I'M AT MY LIMITS! WE'LL RETREAT...

NO, WE'LL REINFORCE!

!?

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

WE HOLY CRUSADERS CAN'T BE JUST SITTING HERE IDLY WHILE SUCH CRUCIAL EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE!

WE'LL MARCH ALL OUR TROOPS TO AURORA ISLAND AS REIN-FORCEMENTS!

LIKE I CARE!

WE CAN'T BE SPARING EVEN A DROP OF OUR HOLY BLOOD FOR THOSE TRAITORS WORKING WITH THE DEMONS!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS CITY THEN?!

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE CIVILIANS IN THIS CITY WHO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MILITARY?!

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE SOLDIERS NO, MILITARIES EXIST FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN PROTECTING PEOPLE?

WHAT? YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

YOU MERE MERCENARY YOU GOT NO RIGHT

THERE IS NOT A SINGLE MAN IN OUR FORTRESS

WHO WILL HESITATE TO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE FOR HIS PEOPLE!

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHY DON'T YOU DO THAT?!

WHAT CAN A MERE MERCENARY DO?! YOU'LL END UP RUNNING AWAY IN NO TIME!

AS A FAREWELL GIFT TO A FELLOW SOLDIER, I'LL LEAVE YOU AT LEAST 500 MEN!

YOU SAID IT! ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE THE COMMANDER FROM NOW ON!

OUR TROOPS WILL PULL BACK AND MARCH TOWARDS AURORA ISLAND AS REINFORCE-MENTS!

IF THE DEMONS ARE TO TAKE BACK THIS CITY IN THE FUTURE, IT WILL ALL BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!

YES SIR!

?

HEY!

GET READY TO DEPART RIGHT NOW!!

GATHER UP EVERYONE INTO THE CITY. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEN TO DEFEND THE FORTRESS ANYWAY

FOR NOW...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

GEN-ERAL,

LOOKS LIKE IT GOT QUITE TROUBLE-SOME.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL

EH?

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

Archduke Fire Dragon around?

AND SEND OUT MESSENGERS TO THE INFLUENTIAL DEMONS AROUND THE AREA.

ALSO, CALL THE PROMINENT MERCHANTS OF THE CITY AND LEADERS OF THE DEMONS.

LET'S SEE... INVITE ABOUT TEN.

WE'RE GOING TO BEG THEM WITH OUR HEADS TO THE GROUND

FOR US HUMANS TO LIVE AMONGST THE DEMONS.

...AND AFTER THAT,

I DRAGGED THE HOLY CRUSADERS AROUND IN CIRCLES TO GET THE TIMING RIGHT.

YEAH.

SEEMS LIKE MY TIMING MATCHED PERFECTLY WITH DEMON QUEEN!

I SEE.

SO THAT'S WHAT THOSE REINFORCE-MENTS WERE ...

EAST FORTRESS GENERAL ACTED AS THE REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE DEMONS.

I HAVE MY FAMILIAR KEEP AN EYE ON THEM, BUT THERE AREN'T ANY STUFF LIKE RIOTS SO FAR.

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO GATE-WAY CITY?

SO HUMANS LOST THEIR STRATEGIC BASE IN THE DEMON WORLD,

AND DEMONS LOST THEIR STRATEGIC BASE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

IS THAT SO...

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP THE REMAINING PEOPLE GET BACK TO THE HUMAN WORLD SAFELY.

THEY WERE [illegible] BY THE RETREATING [illegible] AWAY AND GOT [illegible]

BY THE WAY WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RUN- AWAY... NO, THE RETREAT- MENTS?

WELL, FOR THOSE WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE BACKLASH OF RETREATING BACK TO HOLY KING CAPITOL FOR DISMANTLING THE HOLY CRUSADERS

BUT STILL, IT SEEMS LIKE THE COMMANDER SHAMEFULLY MANAGED TO ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY BY USING HIS SUBORDINATES AS SHIELDS

I SEE

I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.

THERE ARE THINGS TO FEEL SORRY FOR, BUT YOU STILL CAN'T IGNORE THE VARIOUS FAILURES HE CAUSED.

YOU COULD SAY HE'S REAPING WHAT HE SOWED.

WE...

WE MET A FEW TIMES IN SPRING, REMEMBER?

ANOTHER FULL YEAR AFTER OUR ONE YEAR REUNION!

GEEZ, YOU REALLY WANDER AROUND TOO MUCH.

HMM?

ANOTHER YEAR...

YEAH,

TO TELL ME DEMON QUEEN'S IDENTITY AND FORCING ME TO TAKE UP TEACHING THOSE BRATS!

My bad, my bad~

HUH?

I'VE ALWAYS SMILED.

YUP

YOU STARTED TO SMILE.

REALLY ?

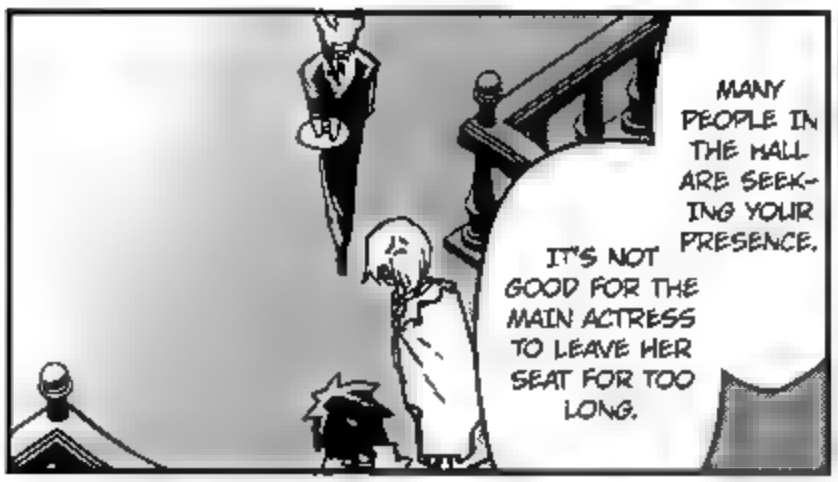
HERO... YOU'VE CHANGED

BUT NOW

YOU USED TO HAVE HOLLOW SMILES

THAT WERE SOMETHING MISSING INSIDE.

OHH...!


MANY PEOPLE IN THE HALL ARE SEEKING YOUR PRESENCE.
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE MAIN ACTRESS TO LEAVE HER SEAT FOR TOO LONG.

SO YOU WERE HERE,
FEMALE KNIGHT.

OHH! HERO'S HERE TOO!
HEY GEEZER.

パシ
Please

OH~ THANKS.

WOULD YOU LIKE ONE TOO, HERO?

ズンズン

See ya~!

YEAH.

YOU DON'T SEEM THAT SURPRISED.

ふっ

SO, IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

HERO.

It's so good!!

がつがつ

YEAH!

OF COURSE!

IT'S THE LAW OF THE UNIVERSE THAT ONLY WIZARDS DIE AS VIRGINS.

Nyo ho ho ho ho

YOU CAN'T LET YOURSELF DIE AS A VIRGIN, RIGHT, HERO?

WHY?

FOR MAKING YOU GO ALONE...

ARE YOU LOATHING US, HERO?

BACK THEN, I WAS THE ONE WHO ABANDONED EVERYONE AND WENT ALONE.

THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD BE ANGRY AT YOU GUYS.

?

EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...

IF I AM, THEN IT'S WRONG

...YEAH.

HERO,

YOU'RE TOO STRONG.

BUT WITH YOUR STRENGTH, YOU PROBABLY COULD'VE FOUGHT WHILE PROTECTING US...

JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS DID ON OUR ADVENTURES.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU LEFT US BEHIND BECAUSE WE WERE A HINDRANCE, RIGHT?

OF COURSE, WE WOULD'VE DRAGGED YOU DOWN,

BUT

HERO IS STRONG.

AFTER ALL, NORMAL PEOPLE [illegible] SUCH POWER.

YOU USE THAT POWER, THE MORE YOU GET ISOLATED IN THIS WORLD.

YOU ARE COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM HUMANITY IN TERMS OF STRENGTH.

YOU'RE HUMAN, JUST LIKE US.

BUT...

YOU'RE HUMAN.

YOU LEFT THE THREE OF US BEHIND

IN ORDER TO PREVENT OUR "ISOLATION", RIGHT?

THAT'S THE SIN OF MANKIND.

HERO, I BELIEVE

DESPITE THAT, WE ENDED UP ISOLATING YOU.

I'M TRULY SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU THROUGH SUCH HARD-SHIP.

...IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.

TL NOTE: PUFF PUFFS - A DRAGONBALL / DRAGON QUEST REFERENCE.
"ACTION OF A WOMAN SHAKING HER BARE BREASTS FROM SIDE TO SIDE WHEN SOMEONE ELSE'S FACE IS IN BETWEEN THEM."
- URBAN DICTIONARY

FAKE PUFF PUFFS ARE DONE BY BULKY BULK BROTHERS~!

HMM?

WE ARE SLOWLY STARTING TO BE ABLE TO DO THINGS THAT WEREN'T POSSIBLE TWO YEARS AGO.

WE AREN'T TOTALLY HOPELESS, YOU KNOW?

EVER SINCE YOU PARTED US, WE'VE BEEN DOING OUR BEST TOO.

[illegible] WE CAN [illegible]LK AND AIM [illegible]R THE [illegible]ON.

[illegible] CAN [illegible]U HEAR [illegible]OSE [illegible]

CAN YOU HEAR THA MUSIC?

[illegible] YOU SEE [illegible]SE LIGHTS [illegible]NING ON [illegible]E HALL?

A COUNTRY THAT WON'T FORCE ALL ITS SINS UPON HERO...

I'M SURE THERE WILL BE A PLACE WHERE HERO WON'T HAVE TO BE IN SOLITUDE ANYMORE.

Although we're still fledgling chicks.

WE WON'T MAKE YOU ALONE ANYMORE.

WE'LL FIGURE THINGS OUT, EVEN WITHOUT HERO'S ABNORMAL POWER.

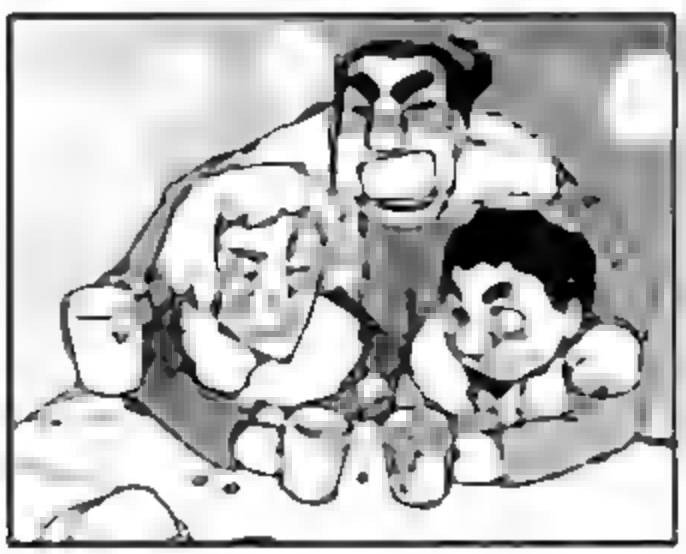
IT'S A NICE COUNTRY, ISN'T IT?

YUP. ABSOLUTELY.

YEAH, GEEZER!

I'M BACK!

WELCOME BACK, HERO!



CLOSE IT!
TCH!
EVEN THE MOONLIGHT IS DIS-TURBING TONIGHT.
YES SIR!
WHAT'S WITH THIS DISGUST-ING WINE?!
FIX THIS IMMEDI-ATELY!
YES SIR. I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
THAT WINTER NATION BRAT...
AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT HE ALSO FORMED A THREE NATION UNION WITH IRON NATION AND ICE NATION
WITHOUT US, WHITE NIGHT NATION?
HE TOOK AURORA ISLAND USING CHEAP TACTICS!
THEY'RE SO FULL OF THEMSELVES... THOSE BRAINLESS BARBARIANS.

THERE'S
WILL
LET THOSE
FOOLS GO
UNHARMED...
ONE DAY,
I'LL PASS
THEM A
SUITABLE
PUNISH-
MENT!

...IT'S ALREADY BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE HERO-BRO CAME BACK.

[illegible]

[illegible] A NICE QUIET DAY WITH SLIME EXCLUDE

[illegible] THEN

THANKS TO THAT, OUR MANSION HAS [illegible]

おかえり

EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE NEWCOMERS, DID THEIR VERY BEST.

YESTERDAY, I HELPED WITH THE POTATO HARVEST AT THE VILLAGE.

THEY GAVE US A TON OF MILK, SO I DECIDED TO MAKE CHEESE WITH IT.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR IT TO BE DONE!

THE MILK WE RECEIVED AS GRATITUDE WAS SUPER SWEET AND SUPER GOOD!

O-KAY!

WERE YOU WRITING YOUR DIARY?

IT'S TIME TO START TODAY'S WORK.

AND THAT'S IT.

まおゆう魔王勇者

TODAY, BIS SIS

WENT OUT TO IRON NATION WITH LANDLADY-SIS AND HERO-BRO.

O~KAY!

IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US WORKING TODAY,

SO YOU HAVE TO WORK HARD, OKAY?

Archenemy and Hero 魔王勇者

——「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」「断る！」——

CHAPTER 11

HOW IS IT, MY LORD?

WRITER: TOUNO MAMARE
ARTIST: ISHIDA AKIRA

GOT IT.

ANYWAY, I WONDER WHERE OUR DESTINATION IS...

YEAH.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET LOST.

...SO THIS IS THE CAPITAL OF IRON NATION... IT'S REALLY BIG

AND CROWDED.

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IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING IT TOO

IT'S QUITE A SIGHT

HOUSES OF THIS COUNTRY ARE MADE OF STONES,

AND THERE ARE SO MANY CHIMNEYS AND SMOKE-STACKS

IRON NATION IS GOOD AT BLACK-SMITHING AND CASTING,

SO THEY MAKE EVERY-THING FROM FARM TOOLS TO WEAPONS.

THAT'S THE CRAFTSMEN TOWN ALONGSIDE THE RIVER

SO WHERE ARE WE GOING TODAY?

I'VE BEEN TRAVELING EVERYWHERE, SO AT THE VERY LEAST, I KNOW WHERE THINGS ARE MADE.

YOU'RE QUITE KNOWL-EDGEABLE, HERO-SAMA.

AS EXPECTED OF MY POSSES-SION

I TALKED TO [illegible] ABOUT SCULPTURE BEFORE, RIGHT?

I MET A CRAFTSMAN FROM [illegible]

SO I ASKED HIM TO MAKE A CERTAIN TOOL.

THE TRUE VASTNESS OF [illegible]

I BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION [illegible]

THIS WORLD.

[illegible] OUT THE WORLD [illegible] KNOWLEDGE.

BUT HUMANS WITH [illegible] UNDERSTOOD [illegible]

I CAN REALIZE SOMETHING LIKE THAT

THINKING MY WAY IS THE ONLY PATH TO SOLVING A PROBLEM,

OR THINKING THAT MY ACTIONS WERE ALWAYS JUST...

"THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE".

YOU NEED KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THIS DARKNESS

WE CAN USE EDUCATION TO DO "THAT"

YOU WILL FAIL TO GRASP THAT WITHOUT EDUCATION.

EDUCATION IS CRUCIAL BECAUSE OF

THEY DON'T EVEN FULLY UNDERSTAND

THE EXISTENCE OF A BETTER LIFE.

FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE SURFS LACK EDUCATION, OR IN OTHER WORDS, KNOWLEDGE,

. I CAN RELATE TO THAT

?

EVEN THE "*POSSIBILITY OF GETTING TO OTHER SIDE*" IS COMPLETELY FOREIGN ..

EVEN IF THEY SEE THE LAND-LORDS OR NOBLES, THE "*WAY TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE*" IS TOTALLY UNKNOWN TO THEM.

...NO,

THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE THE EASIEST WAY.

TO NOT KNOW

WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU CAN BE.

IT'S A VERY TRAGIC THING

AS YOU CAN TELL, EDUCATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, THERE'S A BIG

THAT IS THE LENGTH OF ITS DURATION.

IN ADDITION, THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU CAN TEACH AT A TIME

IT TAKES A LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME FOR A HUMAN BEING TO PASS KNOWLEDGE DOWN TO ANOTHER.

SELF

IT TAKES A WHOLE MONTH FOR HUMAN HANDS TO TRANSCRIBE JUST ONE BOOK.

THE EFFECTIVE WAY TO STORE AND SEND KNOWLEDGE IS TO TURN IT INTO A DOCUMENT, BUT...

THAT TAKES TIME A LOT OF TIME TOO.

SCHOLAR-SAMA!

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE WE LAST TALKED!

YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED FROM THE LONG TRIP!

I'll go and b... you some tea.

Please have a rest first.

I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS SUCH A CONVENIENT THING!

IT TOOK ONLY A SECOND 'CAUSE WE CAME HERE USING TELEPORTATION MAGIC...

It made me a bit dizzy...

.....

THAT'S ...!

YOUR HASTINESS IS THE SAME AS USUAL!

Ha-ha-ha!

I UNDERSTAND FOLLOW ME

BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING I'D LOVE TO SEE THE PROTOTYPE.

A THRESHER... NO, A GRAPE BLENDER...

WE'RE STILL AT THE PRO-TOTYPING STAGE,

TURNED OUT PRETTY BIG

.....
YOU CAN USE IT MULTIPLE TIMES, AND IT CAN COMPLEMENT ANY TYPES OF DOCUMENTS.
YOU FORM A PLATE BY GATHERING UP "PRINTING TYPES".
IT'S A GRAND INVENTION THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE WORK OF TRANSCRIPTION.
SET IT ON THIS MACHINE, APPLY INK ON THE PLATE, AND PRESS IT ON PAPER.
THE "PRINTING PRESS".
THIS IS OUR NEW WEAPON...
484
485
483
480
481
482

HMM ...
YOU'RE HERE.
SORRY I'M LATE.
499
500
I WAS GOING TO JUST TAKE THEM THERE AND COME BACK, BUT THERE WERE A BUNCH OF OTHER THINGS THAT HAPPENED...
YOU'RE LATE.
WHAT?!
NOPE.
THEY JUST FINISHED THEIR WARM UP.
Oh?
YOU'RE DONE ALREADY?
せーは

DON'T SIT, STAND!

ARE YOU GUYS PLANNING TO LIE DOWN IN FRONT OF YOUR ENEMIES WHEN YOU GET TIRED DURING A BATTLE?

Guys, get a hold of yourselves~!

ALL RIGHT!

HERE COMES THE MAIN THING!

this coming...

I totally saw...

YEAH ...

I CAME HEARING THAT I WILL BE INSTRUCTED BY THE HERO OF THE LAST WAR, FEMALE KNIGHT-SAMA, BUT...

SHE'S TERRIFY-INGLY STRICT...

Whether or not your legs can move when you're tired can mean life or death on a battlefield!

AND HERE'S THE LAST ONE!

FIVE LAPS 'ROUND THE LAKE!

BUT LOOK...!

OUR TWO SENIORS ARE RUNNING EVEN WITH BAGS OF POTATOS ON THEIR SHOULDERS...!

What the...?

AMAZ-ING...

SOME-DAY, I'LL BE ABLE TO DO THAT TOO...!

I'M GONNA DIE...

I'M DEFI-NITELY GONNA DIE!

So these represent the kid

If you were to encounter a kid while running, you'll save him by carrying him on your shoulders, right?

That's what it means to be a H-E-R-O~

I CAN SEE BEAUTIFUL LADIES...

PLEASE WAIT FOR ME~!

おおおお

PERHAPS
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT MY BREAST SIZE THAT CAN BE COVERED BY EVEN A SINGLE TOWEL?
COME ON,
I'LL WASH YOU. BRING YOUR HEAD OVER HERE.
Oh, okay ...
.....
GOOD.
ぶわ ぶわ
パシャア アアン
あしゃ
あしゃ あしゃ

...I'M A BIT HEATED UP.
COUNTRY IS AT ITS BEST NEAR THE END OF THE SUMMER.

IT WOULD BE NICE IF IT STAYS LIKE THIS.

YEAH, BUT...

THAT WON'T HAPPEN.

IN ORDER TO KEEP THE TRADITION OF THE HUSBAND AND WIFE LIVING TOGETHER, WE HAVE TO BATTLE IT OUT TO SEE WHO THE REAL WIF—

THE DEMON WORLD OR THE HUMAN WORLD WILL BE MAKING A MOVE SOON...

Ah!

Ahh! You're right!

We're at a stalemate right now, but there's no guarantee that this situation will go on!

YUP THAT'S RIGHT.

EH?

EH?

HEY, I'VE BEEN THINKING .

IF WE TAKE DOWN ALL THE RULERS OF THE DEMONS, THEIR FORTRESSES, AND THEIR ARMY,

WOULDN'T THE WAR END IN AN INSTANT?

MAYBE~

BUT WE CAN'T DO THAT.

WITH ME, GEEZER ARCHER, HERO...

...AND THAT ANNOYINGLY BIG-BOOBED DEMON QUEEN,

DEMON QUEEN IS AIMING FOR THE "NEITHER WINNING OR LOSING" CONCLUSION OF THE WAR.

SHE'S USING HER OWN METHODS TO SAVE THE DEMONS.

That's why she took the hard way during the battle for Aurora Island

DEMON QUEEN'S SIDING WITH THE HUMANS NOW, RIGHT?

She lent us her strength in the last battle..

THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE.

SHE KNEW RIGHT FROM THE START THAT

I'M SURE FEMALE KNIGHT OR GEEZER CAN EASILY BEAT HER.

"IT'S POSSIBLE TO END THIS WAR WITH USING EXTRAORDINARY MILITARY POWER",

BUT

"YOU CAN'T EXTINGUISH THE FLAMES OF CONFLICT".

SHE'S AMAZING

HER KNOWLEDGE IS AMAZING TOO, BUT WHAT SHE THINKS ABOUT IS THE MOST INCREDIBLE.

YEAH,
I JOINED HER SIDE.

THAT'S WHY
YOU...
FELL IN LOVE...

YOU BECAME THE HEAD OF THE MONASTERY AND HELPED OUT THE FARMERS.

GEEZER IS TEACHING A KING TOO.

EVERYONE IS SO AMAZING.

WHAT?

AND
FEMALE KNIGHT IS AMAZING TOO.

ALL I CAN DO IS CHOP AND SLASH, SO

EVERYONE IS REALLY... DAZZLING.

OHH...

HIM...

OH RIGHT...

I DIDN'T SEE ONE OF THE THREE FOOLS BACK THERE...

YEAH...

THERE ARE THREE GROUPS OF VISITORS WAITING...

ALSO, THE SETTLEMENT FOR THE MERCHANT SHIPS IN ARCTIC SEA...

OKAY...

YOUNG MASTER,

PLEASE SIGN THIS DOCUMENT.

すーん…

ガラッ

YOUR HIGH-NESS,

THE NEXT GROUP IS IN THE WAITING ROOM.

OKAY...

ASK THEM TO WAIT A LITTLE BIT...

YES SIR!

ビシッ

DOCUMENTS AND PETITIONS... APPEALS AND NEGOTIATIONS... WE CAN'T BACK OUT ON ANY OF THEM.

FOR THE THREE NATIONS PACT TO MAKE US THIS BUSY...

FOR MUNICIPALS, IF BANKS RUN OUT OF MONEY, INVOKE COMPULSORY SERVICE

AND HAVE THEM PAY FOR FOOD THROUGH MILITARY SERVICE. THAT'S HOW THINGS ARE SO FAR, BUT HOW DID IT TURN TO THIS MUCH WORK?

PROBLEMS LIKE TAXES WERE SOLVED ONCE LANDOWNERS TRANSPORT THEM TO THE CASTLE'S STORAGES...

THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH A KING CAN HANDLE ALONE.

REORGANIZATION OF THE MILITARY,

IMMIGRANT PETITIONS...

OWNERSHIP OF THE HARBOR AND SOUTHERN ARCTIC SEA ROUTES,

TAX REVENUES COLLECTED FROM MERCHANTS,

UMM...

IS IT BE OKAY TO SEND IN THE NEXT MERCHANT?

IT CAN'T BE HELPED. SEND HIM IN!

THEY WERE KNOCKED OUT IN ONE WEEK DUE TO THE WAVES OF WORK.

WHERE'S THE CIVIL OFFICIAL? WHAT ABOUT THE TAX OFFICIAL?

EXCUSE ME!

I'M SO HONORED TO MEET YOU,

YOUR HIGHNE-

ガチャッ

ごちゃごちゃ

IS IT THIS?

MAYBE THIS?

NO...

ガ!

Onhh

UMM...

WELCOME, YOUNG MERCHANT.

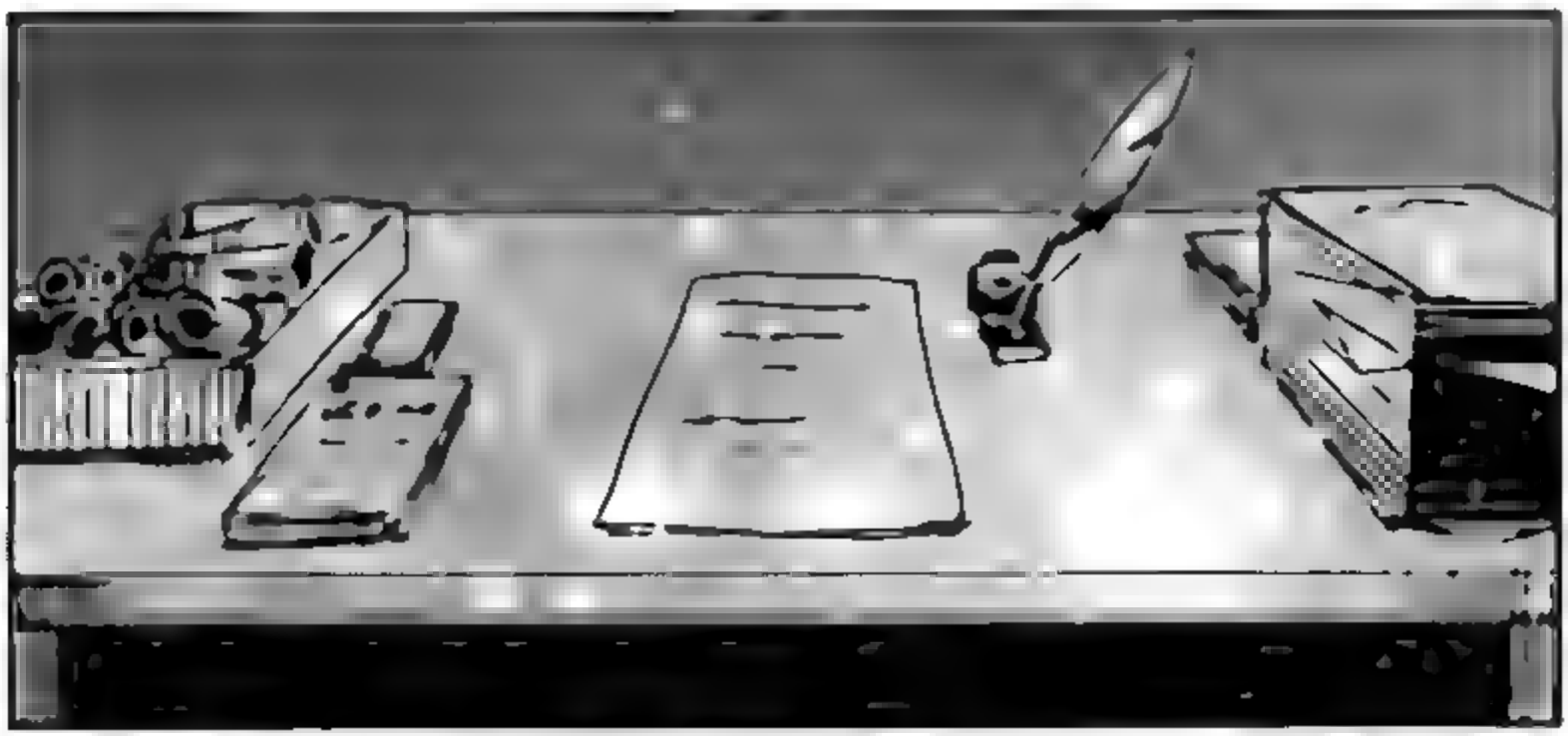
SORRY, BUT WE'RE A BIT UNORGANIZED RIGHT NOW.

OH, IF THAT'S THE CASE...

I'M SORRY, BUT CAN YOU PLEASE WAIT FOR A MOMENT?

I'M SURE I ALREADY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOU, BUT...

...THIS MONTH'S TAX REGISTERS GOT MIXED UP WITH IT.



SO IT WAS MY HONOR.
THANK YOU SO MUCH YOU SPARED ME A LOT OF TIME

I WONDER HOW LONG IT HAS BEEN...
AMAZ-ING
TO SEE THE SURFACE OF THIS DESK AGAIN...

I'M THE THIRD SON OF THE MERCHANT FAMILY AND OUR FAMILY BUSINESS HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN TO MY BROTHERS, SO I DON'T HAVE ANY JOBS.
I BELIEVE I CAN BE OF GREAT HELP IN TRADING OR GATHERING INFORMATION.
I'm done teaching him
use him as much as you want on the field
Crimson Scholar

THIS NATION WELCOMES TALENTED YOUNG MEN LIKE YOU.

YOU'VE COME TO THE PERFECT PLACE.

はははははは

?

Haha~?

はははは

NO NEED TO WORRY, MY BOY

WHY DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY, YOUR HIGHNESS?

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU TRAVEL AROUND AGAIN AND AGAIN.

OH, THIS IS NOTHING.

YEAH.

BUT I'M STILL A LITTLE DIZZY.

ARE YOU OKAY?

Uhhh

WELCOME BAAAAACK!

BIG-SIS~ LANDLADY-SIS~

BIG-BRO~

I'LL TREAT EVERYONE TO SOMETHING GOOD!

HEY,

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSE TO RUN AROUND THE MANSION!

Oops

SOOORRY!

THIS IS... CARBONATED.
EVEN WINE BREWERS WILL BE SHOCKED.
IT'S SPARKLING AND IT TASTES GREAT.
THE SWEETNESS OF THE HONEY IS JUST RIGHT.
IT'S COLD...
I COOLED IT IN THE LAKE ALONG WITH THE CUP!
It's orange water!
A COOK?
YOU MAKE TASTY FOODS AND INVENT NEW RECIPES.
LITTLE SISTER MAID MIGHT BECOME A GREAT COOK.
Well done!
Teeheee~
I'LL DO IT! I'M GONNA BE A COOK!
THAT'S AMAZING ♪
Tasty...
food...

どたたたた…

あはは

SEEMS LIKE SHE'S HAVING A QUITE A MISUNDER-STANDING...

HEY!

STOP!

I'M GONNA BE A COOK!

I'M GONNA MAKE MY FAVORITE FOOD EVERY-DAY AND EAT IT!

YOU'RE RIGHT.

SHE EVEN STARTED TO BITE!

HEAD MAID WAS QUITE SURPRISED.

She said stuff like "Glassy-sis is a meanie!!"

BUT SHE'S PRETTY LIVELY NOW.

AT FIRST, SHE WAS VERY TIMID AND ALWAYS STUCK BEHIND HER SISTER.

YEAH.

SHE WAS SAYING *"THERE ARE PRETTY STUBBORN GIRLS EVEN AMONG HUMANS"* AFTER THAT.

HMM... I SEE.

I didn't know.

REALLY?

?

HMM?

Argh...

JUST SIT DOWN AND STAY STI...

HUH?

NAH, IT'S FINE.

YOUR HAIR'S A BIT UNORGANIZED RIGHT NOW.

I'LL COMB IT FOR YOU.

NOT FINE AT ALL!

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THE OUTER APPEARANCE OF ONE'S POSSESSIONS REFLECTS THE OWNER'S DIGNITY?

THE EAST FORTRESS GENERAL BROUGHT TOGETHER MERCHANTS OF THE CITY AND INFLUENTIAL DEMONS AND BECAME THEIR REPRESENTATIVE.

I WAS QUITE SURPRISED WHEN I GREETED HIM AT THE GATEWAY CITY AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF DEMON LORD.

YOU'RE OFF TO GATEWAY CITY TOMORROW?

YEAH.

THERE'S A GATEWAY CITY CONTACT COMMITTEE MEETING.

ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON'S DAUGHTER BECAME A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE AND STARTED LIVING IN GATEWAY CITY.

SO MONITORING THE DEMONS BECAM-

HAS THE CITY BEEN SETTLING DOWN SINCE THEN?

YEAH~

THAT GENERAL IS QUITE CAPABLE.

OWW!!

OH...

SORRY ...

MY HAIR'S TANGLING!

CAN'T.

APPARENTLY THERE'S GOING TO BE A FESTIVAL AT THE TOWN SQUARE.

YOU BETTER COME HOME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMITTEE MEETING IS OVER, GOT IT?

FESTIVAL?

IT'S AN EASTERN FESTIVAL.

IT WAS THE GENERAL'S IDEA, AND THE GOAL WAS FOR HUMANS AND DEMONS TO GET TOGETHER.

THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A BUNCH OF FREE FOOD, DECORATE THE NIGHT WITH LIGHTS, PLAY NICE MUSIC...

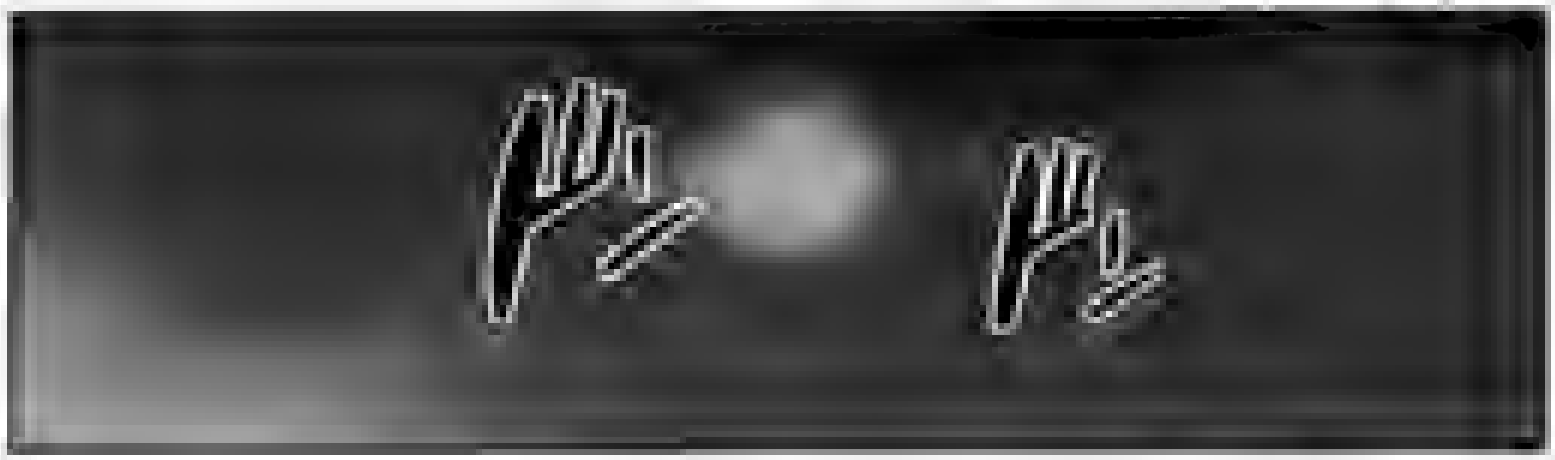
...IS IT SOMETHING YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST ATTEND?

OW!

HMM~

APPARENTLY IT'S ALSO THE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DEMON LORD REPRESENTATIVE'S JOB TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE FOR THE PEOPLE BY PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY AND ELIMINATE THEIR FEARS.

THAT'S WHAT GRAND PRINCESS FIRE DRAGON SAID.



IT'S A LIVELY FESTIVAL WITH A GOOD ATMO-SPHERE.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

I'LL GET YOU THE FRESH AND CHILLY ONES. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

OH, IF IT ISN'T THE EAST FORTRESS GENERAL!

HEY, GET ME TWO JUGS OF ALE.

THAT WOULD BE NICE.

I'M SURE EVEN THOSE TROUBLE-MAKERS WON'T BE MAKING A HASSLE TODAY.

IT'S SUCH A JOYFUL FESTIVAL.

HOW ARE YOU ADJUSTING?

IT'S GOING WELL.

YEAH.

I SWEAR I'LL DO MY VERY BEST TO MAKE SURE NO SUCH WILL THING HAPPEN.

THE BEST WAY IS TO NOT FIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WE'RE ALL SICK OF THE WAR.

I'M SURE NO ONE LIKES GETTING CHASED OR BURNED OUT.

びくっ

SO THERE YOU ARE.

AND HERE'S THE MEAT!

HERE ARE THE DRINKS!

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU, MY LORD.

YOU'RE NOT MY WIFE.
Ohhww! It's the princess~!
TO LEAVE YOUR WIFE ALONE AND WANDER AROUND IN SECRET LIKE THAT...
WHY ARE YOU TREATING ME SO HARSHLY?
UMM...
I ENDED UP TELLING HER...
ABOUT DARK KNIGHT-SAMA BEING GONE... I-I'M SO SORRY!
It's fine..
SHE WOULD'VE FOUND OUT ANYWAY.
IT'S NOT MINE.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T USE SUCH TRICKERIES,
MY HEART AND MY BODY IS ALREADY MY LORD'S...
Hu
Hu!

NOW, NOW AREN'T YOU ALL DRESSED UP!

DEMON GIRL TOO! YOU'VE PUT ON SOME PRETTY CLOTHES!

AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID

"EVEN COMMANDERS COME DRESSED UP FOR FESTIVALS"?

BUT THAT'S ONLY FOR PEOPLE OF THE DRAGON CLAN.

WHAT'S AN UNMARRIED FEMALE DEMON GOING TO DO WITHOUT DISPLAYING HER BODY?"

Don♦
Koh +!

TH-

TH-THIS OUTFIT IS TOO EMBARRASSING FOR ME YOUR HIGHNESS...

NOT AGAIN...

MY LORD!

WHAT WAS—

gooo.

My lord?!

OH— IT'S BAKED POTATO.

HOW'S THIS?

IT'S A GREAT FESTIVAL!

It's going very nicely~

IT'S A PLEASANT NIGHT, ISN'T IT?

HOW'S THIS?

HEY, UMM...

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU SHOULD DO? LIKE...

HUH?

COMPLEMENTING HER CLOTHES AND STUFF..

WANT SOME POTATOES?

How's this?!

How...

ARE DANCING WITH THE MUSIC?

HOW'S THIS?!

Whaa..

m-

LO-

Y

RD?

Th!

Th!!

You're so boring

I see!

AHHH!

Oh!

YOU LOOK GREAT!

PRINCESS HAS GREAT STYLE, SO YOU LOOK AWESOME IN ANYTHING!

BUT YOUR EXOTIC LOOK TODAY IS ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID!

YOU FOOL. THAT'S WAY TOO MUCH.

Is that so, my lord?!

I... I'm the luckiest of maiden in the Three Nations! ♪

Your armor is dirty! Please use this ♥

Ohm! Thanks!

BY THE WAY, MY NAME

IT SEEMS LIKE I DRANK A BIT TOO MUCH

...

REALLY? WANNA REST FOR A BIT?

I HAVE BOOKED A ROOM AT THE FINEST HOTEL IN SHIBUYA CITY

CAN YOU ESCORT ME THERE?

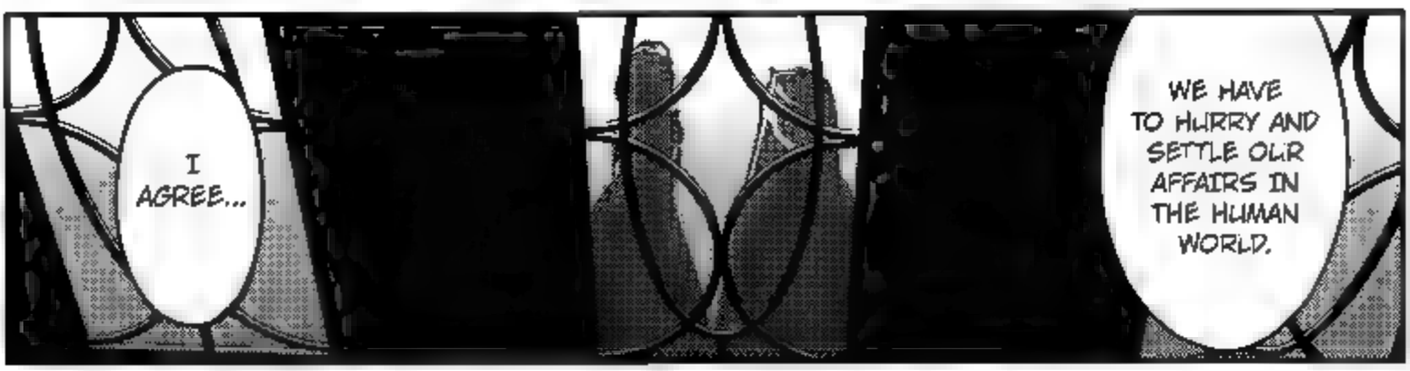
ピタ ピタ ピタ

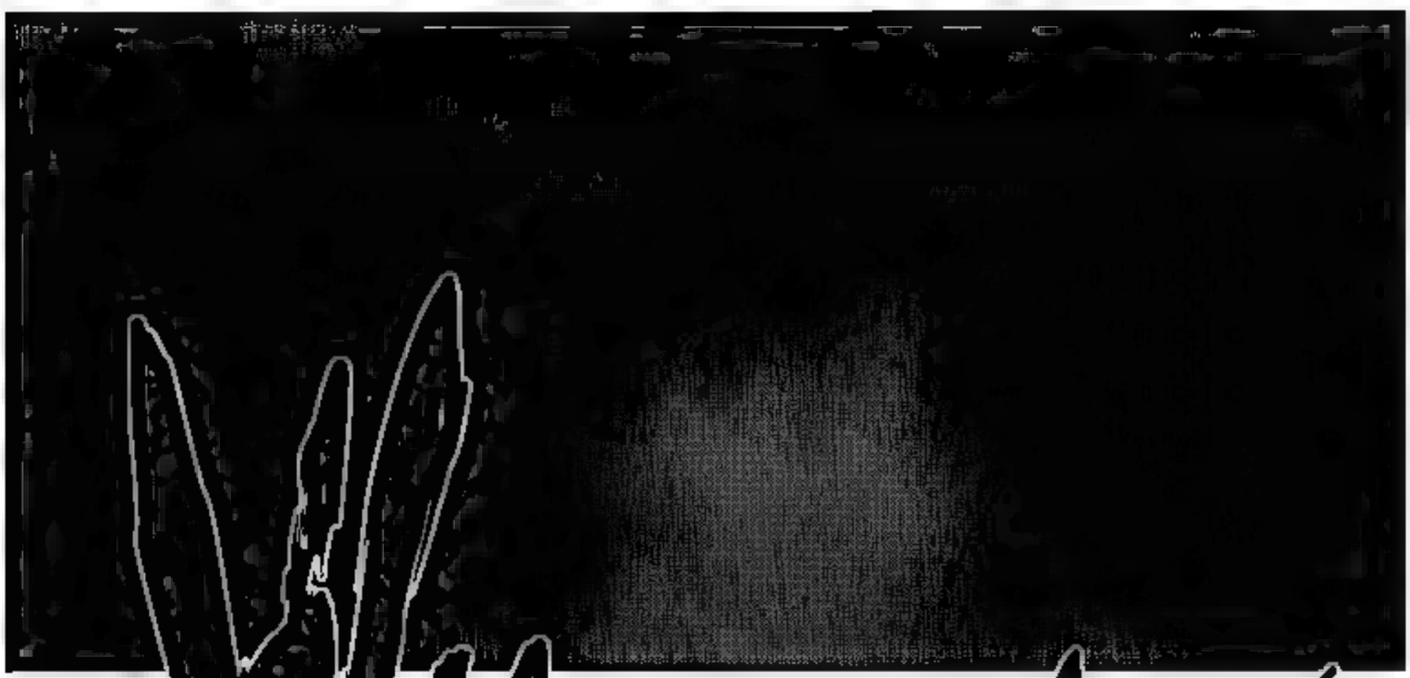
STRATEGIC RETREAT!?

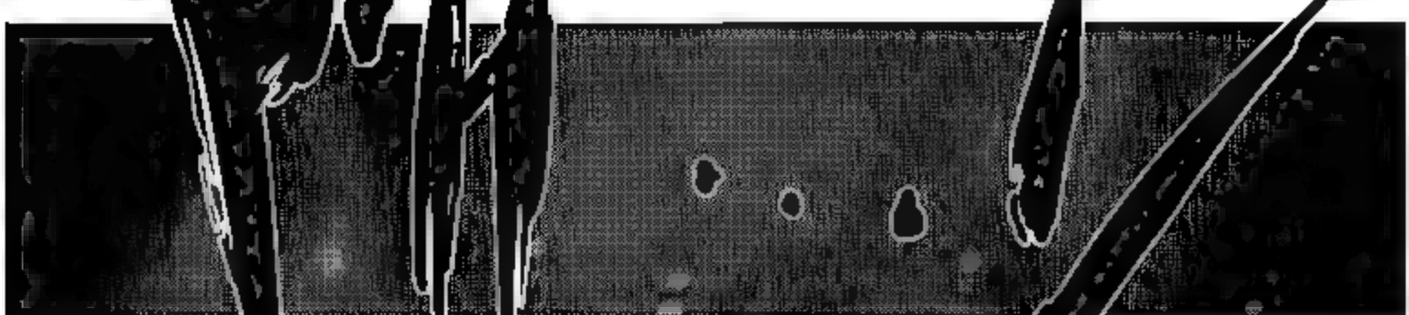
SORRY!
I'M OFF TO BED!
HERO,
DID YOU EAT ALREA-
With my eternal sincerity to My Lord

Hmm...

IT'S THE SECOND ONE THIS MONTH.
THE INTERVAL BETWEEN EACH ONE HAS ALSO SHORTENED.
THE RUM-BLING'S BEEN GETTING STRONGER...
THAT'S RIGHT. I BELIEVE IT'S AT ITS LIMIT...







THE UNEASY ATMOSPHERE IS SLOWLY ESCALATING. WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN...?

TO BE CONTINUED

DREAMS OF EVERY FOLLOW-

TWO YEARS OF

YOU RUINED

ON THE SECOND HOLY

DO YOU KNOW

GATEWAY CITY?

DEATH IS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

THIS IS A CLEAR ACT OF BETRAYAL AGAINST THE HOLY KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH.

I DIDN'T RUNNING AWAY !

I SWEAR I

AS YOU CAN SEE, AURORA ISLAND HAS BEEN RECAPTURED THANKS TO MY DECISION!

AND GATEWAY CITY WAS SUFFERING ATTACKS FROM PHANTOM BEASTS AND DEMON UPRISINGS...

IT WAS AN UNACCEPTABLE DECISION.

IT'S WITHIN A COMMANDER'S POWER TO MAKE SUCH DECISIONS ON THE BATTLEFIELD!

WHEN YOUR ARMY ARRIVED, AURORA ISLAND FORTRESS WAS ALREADY SURROUNDED BY SOUTHERN UNITED KINGDOM'S ARMY,

AND THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE WAS ALREADY DECIDED.

YOU WITHDREW DUE TO SEVERE UPRISINGS?

THEN WHY WERE THE MAJORITY OF HOLY CRUSADERS ABLE TO RETURN TO THE HUMAN WORLD WITH LITTLE OR NO WOUNDS?

YOU ABANDONED YOUR MISSION, RAN AWAY WITH THE ARMY, AND CAUSED UNNECESSARY CASUALTIES.

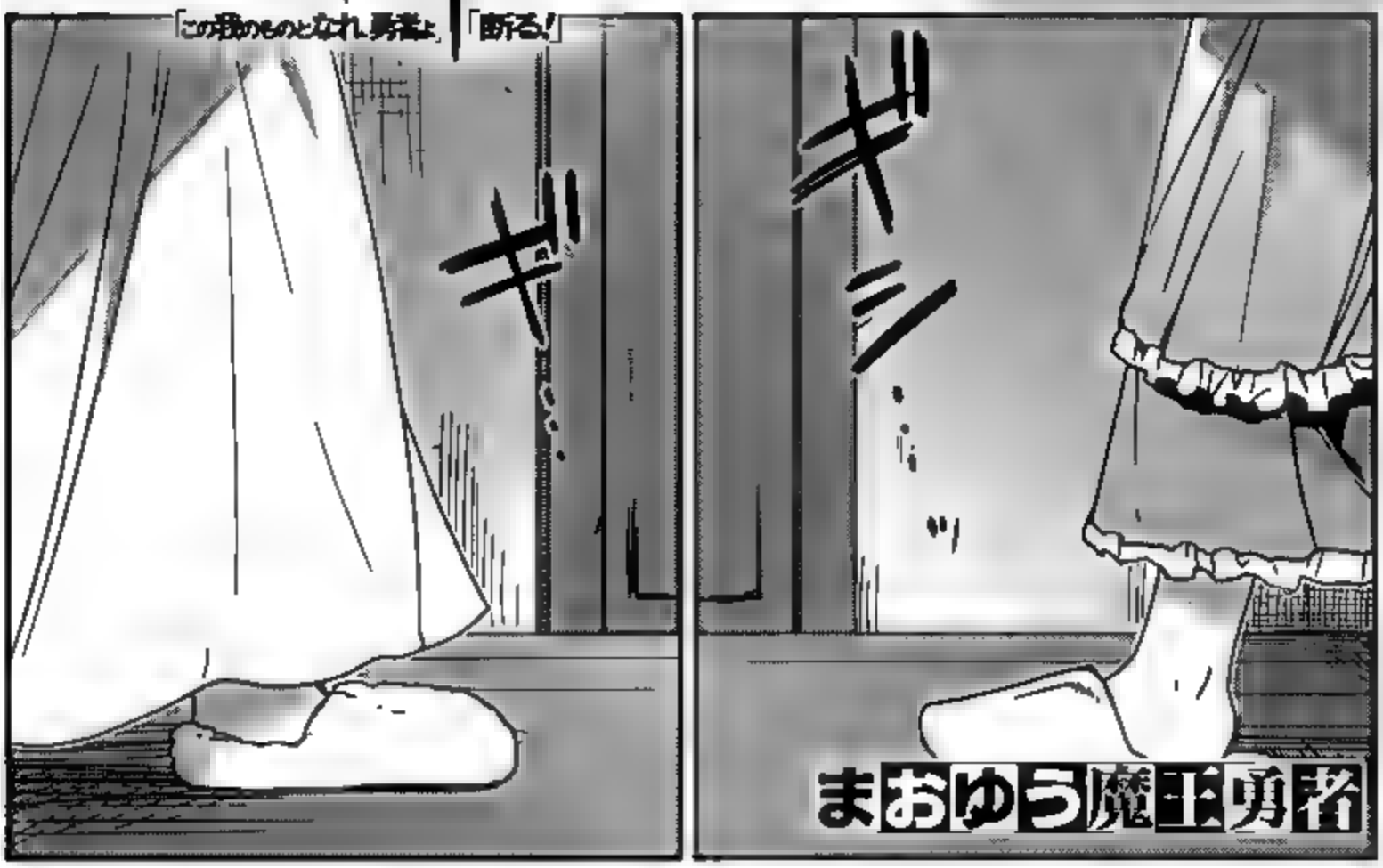
DESERTION OF GATEWAY CITY AND LOSS OF VALUABLE SOLDIERS... THEY'RE BOTH HEAVY CRIMES.

THIS MAN, COMMANDER, WILL BE CRUCIFIED!

CHAPTER 12

THING THAT CAN'T BE DISTINGUISHED AS A PROFIT OR A LOSS

WRITER: TOUNO MAMARE
ARTIST: ISHIDA AKIRA



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NO.

JUST LET ME PASS.

FEMALE

I CONSIDER YOU AS

THE ONE AND ONLY FRIEND I HAVE IN THE HUMAN WORLD

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE DEMON WORLD TRYING TO SEDUCE HERO.

No way!!

WHA?

WHAT?!

ISN'T THIS A FEMALE HANDKERCHIEF?

"WITH MY ETERNAL SINCERITY TO MY LORD"...?!

LOOK AT THIS!

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!

I ONLY HAVE A FEW DAYS LE-

THAT'S WHY

I CAN'T AFFORD TO BACK DOWN TONIGHT!

My beloved sword thirsting for blood too!

.....

OHH...

A FEW DAYS...?

NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.

THEN HOW ABOUT ME?

NO! I WILL!

I'LL GO...!

WHAT?!

IF YOU ARE INDEED A LADY, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A BROAD AND UNDER-STANDING HEART SO THAT YOUR LORD CAN BE SATISFIED.

NIGHT ESCORT, RIGHT? IT'S UNLADYLIKE TO BE QUARRELING OVER SUCH A MATTER.

WAH!

ポイ

DON'T MAKE A COMMOTION IN THE HALLWAY AND JUST GET ON WITH IT

AHH!

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

むぅ

BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHO'S THE ONE GOING!

MAYBE THAT'S TRUE...

Wait!

Ah..

Hey!

THE TWO OF YOU... NO,

THREE OF YOU, PLEASE ENJOY~

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?

UMM...

It was pretty loud, so I heard some of it, but...

I told you, I'll take the top!

But then I'll...

No, no...

HERO!

WAIT A MINUTE!

WE ARE GONNA HAVE A STRATEGIC MEETING!

I SEE...

SO...

HMM?

WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?!

I'M UNSATISFIED TOO.

HOWEVER, IF THERE'S ONLY ONE LOAF OF BREAD, YOU HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL FOR RECEIVING HALF.

Grandma said so.

A DEAL IS ALSO AN INDIRECT EXPRESSION OF COMPROMISE.

THIS IS SIMPLY AN UNFORTUNATE PICTURE OF THAT REALITY.

ARGH...!

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN...?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'D RATHER HAVE THAT FIRE DRAGON WHATEVER!!

YOU CAN'T BE HAPPY WITHOUT BOOBS?

THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF A LADY IS HER PURE-NESS!

There's no way a body devoted to God will lose!

YOU'RE HOLDING A GIRL IN EACH ARM AND YOU'RE STILL COMPLAIN-ING?

IS IT BECAUSE I'M CHUBBY?!

BECAUSE I HAVE USE-LESS MEAT?!

You're mine, you know?!

キャー
キャー
HE'S ASLEEP?
HMM?
HERO?
HERO'S HAIR IS FLUFFY.
I LOVE TOUCHING HIS HAIR.
YUP.
HE'S LIKE A BIG DOG.
HOW THE HECK CAN I SLEEP?!
I'LL LAND THE ULTIMATE HERO SLASH TO ANY VIRGIN WHO CAN SLEEP UNDER THIS SITUATION!

WHAT?

HUH?

FEMALE KNIGHT,

I'LL BE GOING BACK TO THE DEMON WORLD NEXT WEEK.

ふん…

THERE'S A GRAVE OF PAST DEMON LORDS I HAVE TO VISIT.

LET'S SEE... IT SHOULD TAKE AT LEAST A COUPLE MONTHS.

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN, BUT IT'S SORT OF LIKE A LICENSE RENEWAL FOR DEMON LORDS...

THERE'S A RISK OF DEMON CLANS RESUMING THE WAR AGAINST HUMANS BY THEMSELVES

SINCE MOST OF THEM SUPPORT THE INVASION OF THE HUMAN WORLD.

AND WE'RE PROBABLY REACHING A LIMIT FOR THE DEMON LORD'S ABSENCE.

I NEED TO SHOW MYSELF AND REASSURE THE DEMONS.

THANK YOU, BUT IT'S OKAY.

HEAD MAID IS COMING WITH ME, AND

THE DEMON GRAVE... NAMED TEMPLE OF THE DEAD,

IS A PLACE ONLY I CAN ENTER

ISN'T IT DANGEROUS? WHY DON'T I GO WITH...

I SHOULD GO TOO

SO I WANTED A BIT OF HERO'S WARMTH.

.....

I SEE.

I'LL BE LEAVING A LOT OF THINGS BEHIND,

SO I APOLOGIZE FOR ENTRUSTING EVERYTHING TO YOU.

NO... IT'S FINE.

ALL RIGHT.

I SWEAR ON MY SWORD THAT PROMISE.

I'LL BE TELLING BIG-SIS MAID ABOUT THE DETAILS ON THE MANSION, BUT...

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HERO.

YES MA'AM.

I DON'T GET IT.

WELL THEN,

DO YOU UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING?

And don't drag out your words!

Ah, yes Ma'am!

O~KAY!

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR BIG SISTER SAYS,

AND DO ALL YOUR DAILY CHORES, OKAY?

OKAY.

IT'S...

PUT IT ON AND TRY CHANTING THE SPELL.

YOU'LL KNOW ONCE YOU TRY IT.

A RING...?

I'M GIVING THIS TO YOU.

ALSO, BIG-SIS MAID,

ぉー

ーーーアアア

I... TURNED INTO LANDLADY ?

YUP!

PERFECT, PERFECT

THIS IS...

O... OKAY...

I'LL DO MY BEST.

UNDER DIRE CIRCUM-STANCES,

USE IT TO SUBSTITUTE ME

BYE BYE~

I'LL BE PRAYING FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN.

PLEASE HAVE A NICE TRIP

OKAY

WE'RE ALL SET.

TAKE CARE.

YEAH!

LET'S GET

THE GREEN-COLORED SUN... I'VE MISSED IT.

LONG TIME NO SEE, [illegible]

and forth

IF YOU WALK THAT WAY A BIT, YOU'LL GET TO GATE-WAY CITY.

THIS IS FINE, RIGHT?

YEAH.

I WANT TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES THE CITY THAT HAS BEGUN THE COHABI-TATION OF HUMANS AND DEMONS.

SHALL I GIVE YOU A TOUR?

NO...

NO, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

IN THAT CITY, THERE'S ..

?

Well, here.

Okay

HEEEEY! HERO!

HMM?

Oh my
oh my..

LET ME CUDDLE YOU!

BWAH!

NOW, I WON'T LOSE EVEN IF ALL MY PREDECESSORS COME CHARGING.

ALL RIGHT!

ALL CHARGED!

WE'VE FINALLY COME THIS FAR.

YOU CAN ALREADY SEE THE TOP OF THE HILL.

YOU CAN FEEL THE CHEERFUL ATMOSPHERE OF GATEWAY CITY.

IT'S A CITY WHERE HUMANS AND DEMONS ARE LIVING TOGETHER.

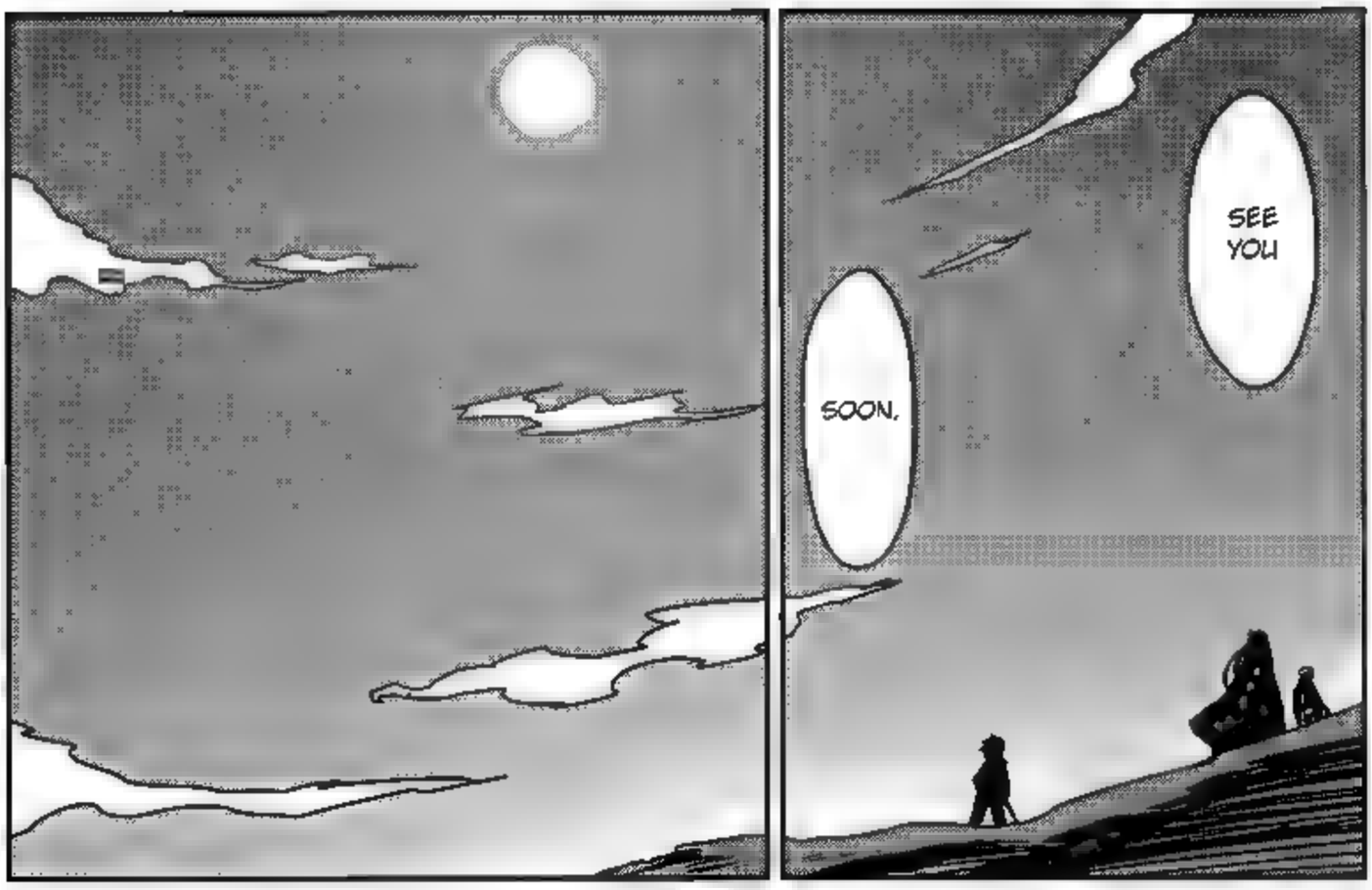
DON'T WORRY.

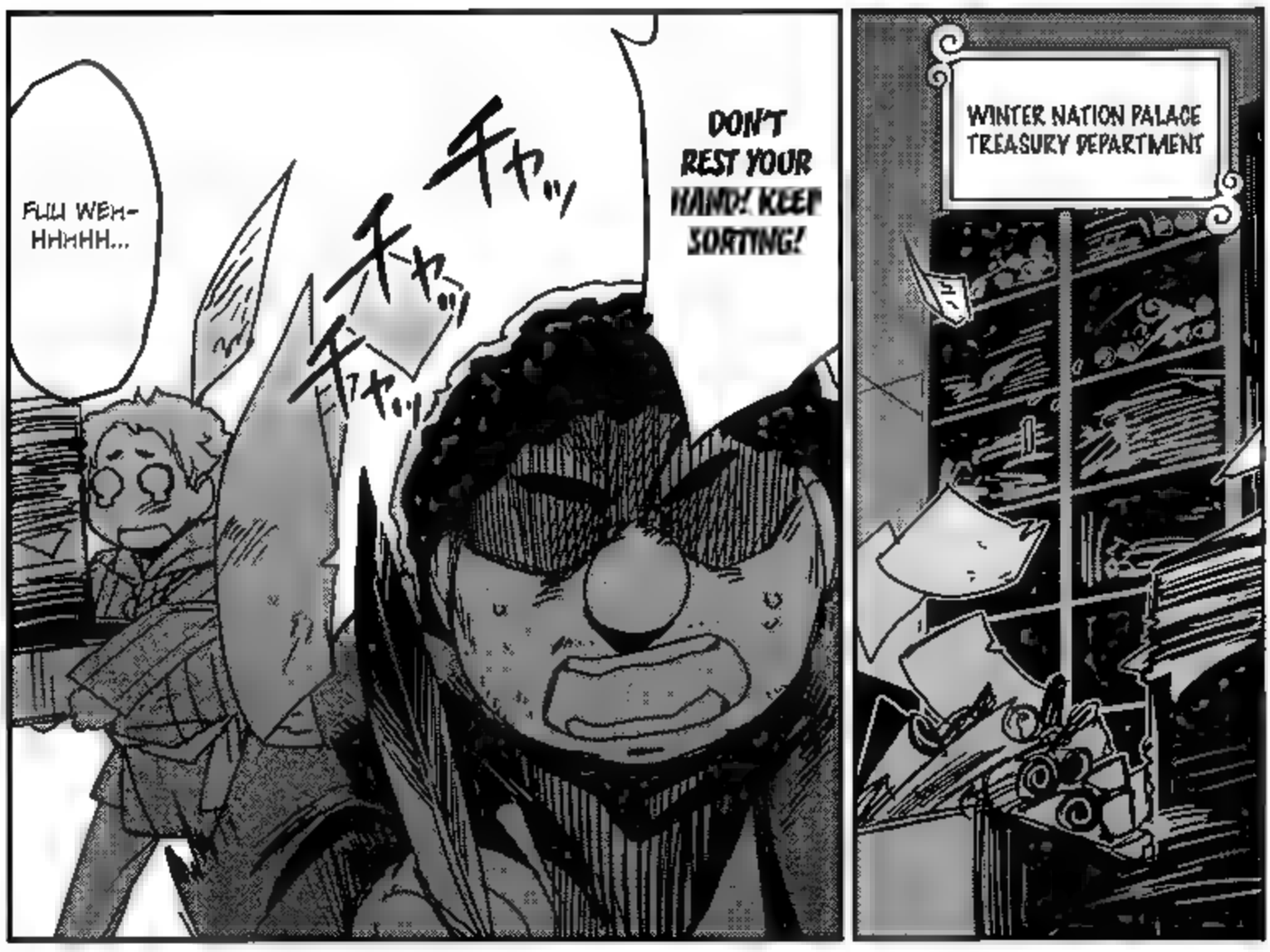
...WILL YOU BE OKAY?

YEAH,

GO ON AND COME BACK, MY DEMON QUEEN.

SO I'LL BE GOING, MY HERO.


SEE YOU
SOON.


WINTER NATION PALACE TREASURY DEPARTMENT
DON'T REST YOUR HAND! KEEP SORTING!
チャッ
チャッ
チャッ
FUU WEH-HHHHH...

NO WAY!
A SHOTA LIKE YOU
WILL ATTRACT MORE WOMEN IF YOU ALWAYS LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO CRY.
MY EYES ARE ALREADY IN TEARS!
ASSISTANT
EXCUSE ME SIR, HERE ARE MORE DOCUMENTS.
THIS IS INCREDIBLE...
THE AMOUNT OF WORK HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 80% EVER SINCE MR. APPRENTICE MERCHANT HAS ARRIVED!
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS KINGDOM HAS NO INTENTION OF MANAGING THIS COUNTRY!

THIS PLACE HAS GOTTEN BUSY ONLY RECENTLY.

THE NUMBER OF MERCHANTS AND IMMIGRANTS INCREASED DUE TO THE THREE NATION TRADE PACT AND THE RECAPTURE OF AURORA ISLAND.

HMM... HMMM...

THE HINT FOR THE SOLUTION SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE IN THERE.

CAN YOU TELL ME IN MORE DETAIL?

YES SIR.

HINT?

"DON'T THINK OF THE PROBLEM. THINK OF THE SOLUTION."

THAT WAS MY TEACHER'S LESSON.

LET'S SEE, WHERE SHOULD I START...

AND WHY'S THAT?

COMPARED TO THE CENTRAL CONTINENT, THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN SOUTHERN UNITED KINGDOMS IS QUITE LOW.

IT'S BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ANY FIEFDOMS IN SOUTHERN UNITED KINGDOMS.

HMMM?

ARISTOCRATS ARE FREE TO COLLECT TAXES ON THEIR LAND AND COMMAND FORCED LABOR ON SLAVES OR SERFS.

SOME EVEN CHARGE PASSAGE FEES.

Nobles who possess streams or harbors in their land become very rich.

I SEE. THAT'S WHY YOU CAN END UP PAYING NUMEROUS PASSAGE FEES INSIDE THE SAME COUNTRY

OR GET CHARGED DIFFERENT TAXES DEPENDING ON THE REGION.

FIEFDOM

FIEFDOM

FIEFDOM

FIEFDOM

IN THE CASE OF CENTRAL, A COUNTRY'S LAND

IS COMPOSED OF "FEDERAL LAND" UNDER KING'S RULE AND "FIEFDOM" UNDER ARISTOCRATIC RULE.

THERE ARE ALSO OFFERINGS FROM MERCHANTS OR THE CHURCH.

BECAUSE THERE ARE MULTIPLE COLLECTIONS AND PROCESSING GOING ON, EVERYTHING GETS VERY COMPLICATED. IT CAUSES DEMAND FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS TO HANDLE ALL THE WORK.

TAX IS COLLECTED WITHIN EACH FIEFDOM,

AND THE ARISTOCRATS DELIVER A PORTION OF THAT TO THE KING.

ON THE OTHER

OF THE YEAR

THE TITLE OF

IN SOUTHERN

IN THE COURT.

THANK YOU. IT'S BEEN A GREAT HELP.

PROB-LEMS...?

THE ANSWER ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.

WE'LL END UP BRINGING IN THE PROBLEMS CENTRAL'S ARISTOCRACY HAVE.

OUR WORK-LOAD WILL BE REDUCED AND OUR LIVES WILL BE EASIER!

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH CIVIL SER-VANTS IN THE SOUTH.

SO DO WE JUST NEED TO MIMIC CENTRAL'S SYSTEM AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS?

SINCE YOU CAN ENJOY A SWEET LIFE ONCE YOU BECOME AN OFFICIAL,

ANOTHER IS BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

USING BRIBERY OR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FAMILY CONNECTIONS BECOMES RAMPANT.

ONE IS THAT YOU CAN'T PREVENT THE ARISTOCRATS FROM COLLUDING WITH THE LOCAL POWERS.

SINCE ARISTOCRATS HAVE THE FREEDOM TO CHANGE THE TAX SYSTEM, THERE WILL BE INEQUALITY IF COLLUSION OCCURS.

EVENTUALLY, THE SYSTEM ITSELF WILL START TO ROT.

[illegible] MAKE ONE GROUP [illegible] POSITION AND CAUSE THE PROBLEM TO SPREAD INTO THE FUTURE.

CORRUPTED [illegible] USE THEIR POSI-[illegible] BRIBERY,

AND THE SYSTEM WILL LOSE ITS EFFICIENCY.

HUH?

SO HERE'S THE SOLUTION:

THERE'LL BE A LOT OF TROUBLE IF THAT HAPPENS!

I SEE... YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

IN THE CENTRAL CONTINENT, YOU CAN'T SUCCEED EVEN IF YOU HAVE THE SKILLS OR THE PASSION

BECAUSE THE HIGHER POSITIONS OR TITLES ARE MONOPOLIZED BY PEOPLE WITH CONNECTIONS.

SO, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING SOUTHERN UNITED KINGDOMS CAN DO.

PICK THE OFFICIALS FROM THE POPULATION

AND PAY THEM SALARIES DEPENDENT ON THEIR ABILITY OR PASSION.

WE'LL CONSTRUCT A BRAND NEW SYSTEM THAT'S FREE OF CORRUPTION.

GOOD MORN-ING.

CAN YOU GET THE SCHOLAR?

AHI

O-OF COURSE!

P-P-

PLEASE WAIT HERE!

BIG-SI... NO,

I'LL GO GET THE LANDLADY!

THANK YOU~

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

I'LL HAVE TO USE THAT THING LANDLADY LEFT US...

BIG-SIS, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Take care of the tea, okay?

コンコン…

ガチャ

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT

……

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SCHOLAR

YEAH...

I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE ON WITH BUSINESS WITHOUT TROUBLE

WAS IT? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

UMM... WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE TODAY?

I'M HERE TO DELIVER THE PERIODIC REPORTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

THEY'RE USUALLY SENT THROUGH THE MAIL, BUT I MISSED SEEING YOU SO MUCH!

I DECIDED TO DROP BY LIKE THIS TO SEE YOUR FACE.

THAT'S... UMM... FLATTERING...

はは…

OH MY, HOW EMBARRASSING!

NOW LET'S SEE...

ガチャ

THAT'S ENOUGH.

HE ALREADY SAW THROUGH IT

OKAY...

I HEARD YOU'VE GOT QUITE A SKI...,

BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO SEE THROUGH IT IN ONE GLANCE.

NO, NO. IT'S THE QUITE OPPOSITE. ONE'S INTUITION IS USUALLY MORE RELIABLE UNDER THESE CIRCUM-STANCES.

YEAH.
IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS ALREADY
LONG TIME NO SEE, HERO.
I'VE BEEN IN YOUR DEBT VARIOUS TIMES IN THE WAR SUPPORT SPEECH.
...BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE AN ENEMY OUT OF THE CURRENT YOU EVEN MORE.
INTER-ESTING.
I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING.
YOU... SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED QUITE A BIT.
I REMEMBER YOU TO BE MORE GUARDED AND FLAWLESS.

THEY WERE IRREPLACEABLE WORDS.

WITH THAT, MY LIFE AS A MERCHANT HAS DISCOVERED A SINGLE GUIDEPOST.

"TAKE THE INCOMPATIBLE LIGHT AND SHADOW, NEGOTIATE, COMPROMISE, AND SETTLE ON A DEAL."

IF I HAVE CHANGED, IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF THAT PERSON.

HUH...?

THEN HOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW?

OHH, THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP TO YOUR PROMISES... ANYTIME IS FINE.

WHEN I WAS HAVING THE SPEECH FOUR YEARS AGO, I TOLD YOU THAT I'LL TREAT YOU TO A PARTY WHEN I COME BACK, RIGHT?

LOOK AT THE SKY

you're h...ng te sic!

WHAT

YOUR WORDS THAT YOU'VE CHANGED

NO WAY, THIS IS...

YUP.

IT'S THE DEMON WORLD

WHAT

WALLS?

HUH?
THERE'S NO WAY DEMONS WILL KEEP HUMANS ALIVE...
That bastard even said that
THAT'S A LIE.
THE COUPLE THOUSAND HUMAN MERCHANTS THAT WERE IN GATEWAY CITY ARE STILL CONTINUING ON WITH BUSINESS EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

YOU MEAN THE PLACE WHERE INNOCENT HUMANS WERE MASSACRED AND DEMONS RE-GAINED CONTROL... ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDER THAT FLED BACK?
THE CITY THAT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY HUMANS UNTIL RECENTLY.
THAT'S THE "GATEWAY CITY"

.....

THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW
WHAT SHE SEEKS TO ACCOM-PLISH.
YOU TALKED WITH HER, RIGHT?

SAID THERE ARE WORTHY OPPONENTS EVEN IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

SHE WAS SPEAKING QUITE HIGHLY OF YOU, YOU KNOW?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO HAVE ME DO?

WHY DID YOU BRING ME TO THIS LAND?

NO.

WHAT SORT OF RELATION DO YOU HAVE WITH.

THAT'S WHY I'LL SHOW YOU

GATEWAY CITY,

THE ONE AND ONLY CITY IN THIS WORLD WHERE HUMANS AND DEMONS ARE COEXISTING.

AS EXPECTED.

ONCE YOU SWITCH TO YOUR MERCHANT FACE, YOU HAVE NO OPENINGS AT ALL.

HONESTLY I DON'T THINK I CAN MATCH YOU IN A DEBATE OR A NEGOTIATION.

HMM... THAT'S NOT IT...

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...

ISN'T IT POSSIBLE TO BRING THAT CITY BACK TO HUMAN HANDS WITH YOUR POWER?

It might be possible but

THAT WOULD END UP REPEATING THE SAME THINGS WE'VE BEEN DOING SO FAR.

My Lord...

AND THEY ARE..?

Demons?

C'MON,

IT'S THE PARTY I PROMISED FOUR YEARS AGO.

IT'S...

IT'S LONELY... TO GO BACK TO BEING A MERE HERO...

LET ME SERVE YOU, DEAR GUEST.

トプ

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ぽた ぽた

NO, I ALREADY DRANK QUITE A BIT..

STOP! IT'S OVER-FLOWING!

THEY SAY YOUR EARS WILL BE TORN OFF IF YOU REFUSE A FIRE DRAGON'S SERVICE.

Dark Knight-sama too...

トプ

トプ

ホホホ

YOU CAN'T CONSIDER IT A "SERVING"

IF IT'S NOT FLOWING OUT OF THE CUP.

ボA

SO... HOW IS IT?

ヒソ

ヒソ

?

HOW'S WHAT?

WHAT A TERRIFYING PLACE...

IT'S THE DEMON WORLD~

ヒソ

"Ala-kaka!

Of course! And I'll serve you with the most exceptional beauties!"

"You can't leave BOOBS out in a party."

"Really?"

WHAT?!

THE BOOBS, OF COURSE! THE BOOBS!

YES I SAID THAT I DEFINITELY SAID THAT

SO REALLY HOW IS IT?

Personally, I prefer Grand

By the way, which one is

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YOU'VE SHOWN ME A SPLENDID SCENERY,

GAVE ME SOME GREAT DRINKS,

AND LET ME LAUGH WITH JOY.

I KNOW.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL—

SHE TOLD ME

THAT MERCHANTS ARE SEEKING FOR "PERMISSION".

YES.

UTILITY PERMISSION, PASSAGE PERMISSION, TRADE PERMISSION...

WE NEED PERMISSION TO WORK IN NEW TERRITORIES THAT BRINGS FORTH NEW MARKETS AND SUPPLIERS OF NEW GOODS.

A GARDEN FILLED WITH RIPE GOLDEN FRUITS DANGLING ON THE BRANCHES.

LET'S SEE

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT CITY?

!

WHAT DO YOU RE-QUEST AS THE PRICE?

MERCHANTS ALWAYS DISTIN-GUISH EVERYTHING AS A PROFIT OR A LOSS, RIGHT?

MERCHANTS WHO ARE SENSITIVE TO PROFIT AND LIVE BY THE PROFIT-LOSS RATIONALITY MORE THAN ANYONE

WILL PROBABLY...

PEOPLE CALL MERCHANTS "GREEDY PIGS" OR "A MONSTER WHO IS ONLY INTERESTED IN THEIR OWN WELL-BEING",

BUT WHEN I WATCH HER, I START THINKING THAT IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.

PLEASE SHOW "THAT" TO ME.

THAT IS MY PRICE.

BE THE ONES THAT CAN DISCOVER

THE "THING THAT CAN'T BE DISTINGUISHED AS A PROFIT OR A LOSS".

I WONDER WHAT

THIS TOTALLY STUPID FEELING IS!

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I THINK SHE AND I BOTH NEED THAT "THING" YOU ARE GOING TO FIND

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I SOMEHOW FEEL VERY PLEASANT

AHH...

HOW PLEASANT

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IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR A WOMAN TO DISTURB A CONVERSATION AMONGST MEN.

LET'S ALSO ENJOY THE DRINK WHILE WATCHING THE RAINBOW

DEAR PRINCESS ARE YOU

FINE WITH JUST THAT?

IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT MY LORD AND HIS GUEST ARE ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

...

FAIR ENOUGH. I'LL ACCEPT THIS DEAL.

THANKS.

I'LL DEFINITELY BRING "THAT" TO YOUR PRESENCE.

ONCE THAT HAP-PENS,

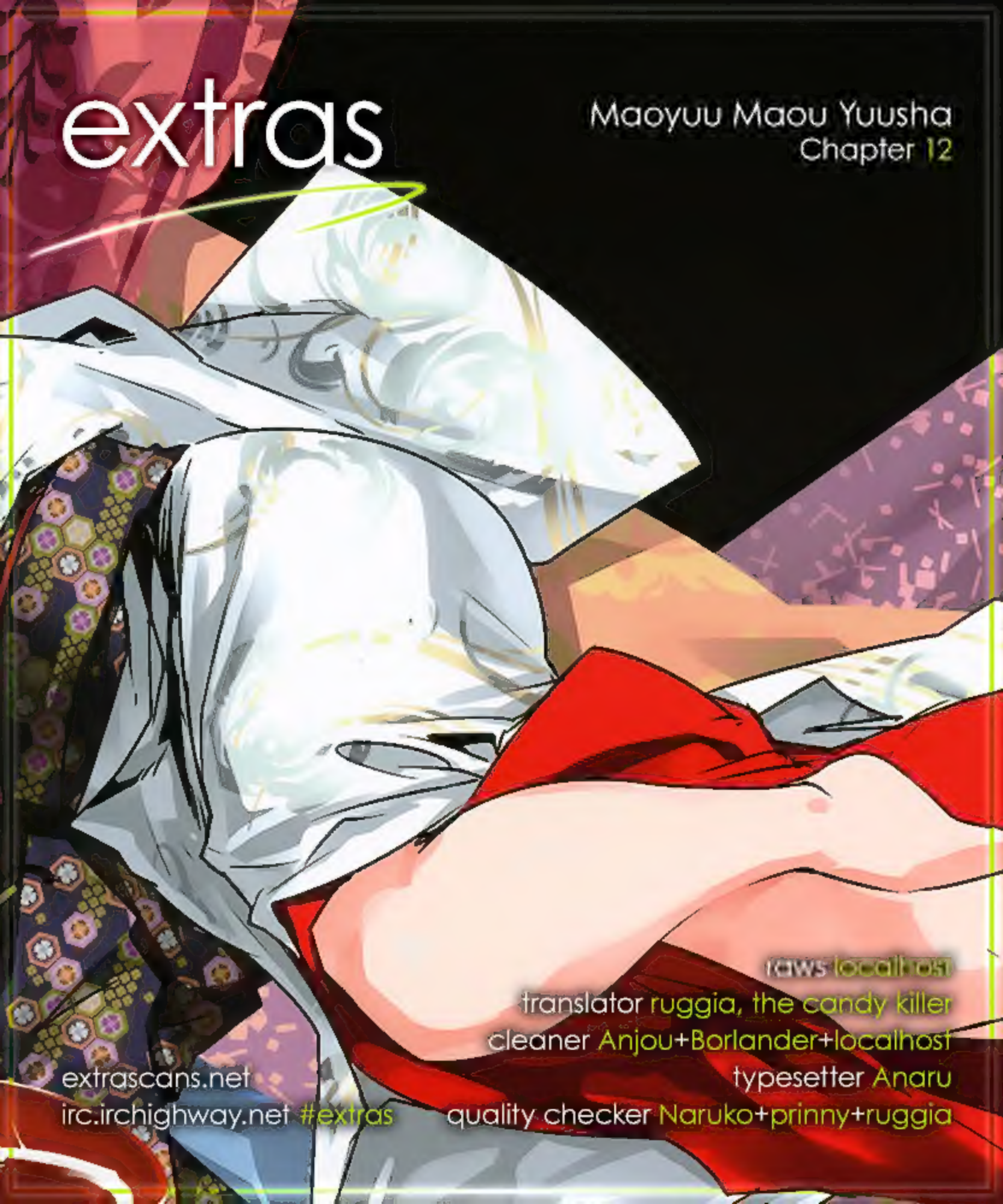
I'M SURE I WON'T BACK DOWN EVEN AFTER KNOWING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU TWO.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I'M NOT FOOLISH ENOUGH TO GO ON A BATTLE WHEN THE ODDS ARE AGAINST ME.
OH MY, DID I SPEAK TOO SOFTLY?
THEN ALLOW ME TO REPEAT IT ONCE MORE.
SORRY, CAN YOU SAY IT AGAIN?
WHAT?
THE ONE WHO HAS OPENED A SCHOOL IN WINTER NATION AND CALLS HERSELF "CRIMSON SCHOLAR"
HAS BEEN INDICTED FOR BEING A SUSPECTED HERETIC.

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HANDOVER THE ONE NAMED CRIMSON SCHOLAR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

DARK CLOUDS COVER THE PATH "BEYOND THE HILL".

TO BE CONTINUED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Maoyuu Maou Yuusha
Chapter 12
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